FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 44 *6 March 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Sends Letters to Leaders on Egyptian Moves [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
Further Details [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Receives Messages From Soviet, Yugoslav Leaders	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Receives Cuban Charge d'Affaires [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Meets With SED Delegation Led by Verner [VOP]	A 2	1/A8
Qaddumi Meets With GDR Ambassador in Beirut	A 2	1/A8
Damascus Says PLO Delegation Due in Amman in March	A 2	1/A8
Paper Lists PLO Demands for Jordanian Dialog	A 3	1/A9
PLO Official Says Dialog With Jordan Not To Resume	A 3	1/A9
Al-Fahum Statement	A 3	1/A9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Cabinet Discusses Drop in Value of Dollar	C 1	1/A10
AR-RA'Y Al'AMM Discusses Position of Dollar [2 Mar 78]	C 1	1/A10
AS-SIYASAH: Rockefeller Statements Unacceptable [2 Mar 78]	C 2	1/A11

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Sees Atherton Mission as Disappointing	C 2	1/A11
Additional Commentary on Mission	C 3	1/A12
Officials State Positions on Value of Dollar	C 4	1/A13
Finance Minister Comments	C 4	1/A13
Under Secretary Comments	C 4	1/A13
Military Official Stresses Nonaggressive Policy	C 5	1/A14

UAE

Oil Minister Proposes Establishing New Currency	C 5	1/A14

YEMEN--PDRY

Salim Rubay' 'Ali Receives Soviet Envoy	C 6	1/B1

YEMEN--YAR

Al-Ghashmi Denies Israeli Presence on YAR Islands	C 6	1/B1
Al-Ghashmi Receives Visiting Djibouti Delegation	C 6	1/B1

EGYPT

As-Sadat Grants Interview to OCTOBER Magazine	D 1	1/B2
Atherton Arrives With Message From Begin	D 9	1/B10

As-Sadat Reviews Ismailia Report on Agriculture	D 10	1/B11
As-Sadat Receives Lord Mountbatten on 4 March	D 10	1/B11
Mountbatten Leaves Cairo	D 10	1/B11
As-Sadat Leaves Ismailia for Cairo on 5 March	D 10	1/B11
As-Sadat Will Visit Ismailia Again in June	D 10	1/B11
Assembly Speaker Mar'i Receives PLO Delegation	D 11	1/B12
Romania To Look After Egyptian Interests in Cyprus	D 11	1/B12
Cypriot Community Denounces Larnaca Incident	D 11	1/B12
Two Wounded Soldiers Return to Cairo From Cyprus	D 11	1/B12
Somali Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo	D 11	1/B12
Cairo Radio Calls U.S. Stand on Palestinians Vague	D 12	1/B13
Cairo Radio Comments on 'Arafat's Trip to USSR	D 13	1/B14
Opposition Paper Defends Palestinian Cause [AL-AHALI 1 Mar 78]	D 14	1/C1
Military Court Begins Trial of Communists	D 15	1/C2

IRAQ

Romanian, Iraqi Economic Talks Conducted in Baghdad [Bucharest]	E 1	1/C3
Visit Concludes	E 1	1/C3
AUN-NAWRAH Attacks Tripoli, Algiers Summits	E 1	1/C3
Syria Bans Passage of Iraqi Mail Through Its Territory	E 2	1/C4

JORDAN

Atherton Arrives for Discussions With Officials	F 1	1/C5
Arrives 3 Mar	F 1	1/C5
Received by King Husayn	F 1	1/C5
Received by Prime Minister	F 1	1/C5
Spokesman Holds Press Conference	F 1	1/C5
Departs 5 Mar	F 2	1/C6
AR-RA'Y Comments on Visit	F 2	1/C6

LEBANON

New Security Arrangement Reportedly To Be Made [Voice of Lebanon]	G 1	1/C7
Deterrent Forces Make Statement on Redeployment	G 1	1/C7
Al-Khatib, Butrus on Deterrent Forces Statement	G 1	1/C7
President Sarkis Meets With Saudi Ambassador	G 2	1/C8
Foreign Minister Butrus Receives U.S. Ambassador	G 2	1/C8
AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI To Become Weekly in April	G 2	1/C8
PSP Leader Junblatt To Visit U.S. at End of March	G 2	1/C8

SYRIA

Al-Asad Justifies Syria's Intervention in Lebanon	H 1	1/C9
Al-Asad: Syria To Continue Its Policies	H 1	1/C9
Soviet Ambassador Delivers Message From Brezhnev	H 2	1/C10
PDRY Minister of Trade Arrives on Short Visit	H 2	1/C10
Army Delegation Meets With Hungarian Military	H 2	1/C10
Envoy Returns After Visit to Libya, Algeria	H 3	1/C11
Envoy to Arab Gulf Countries Returns to Damascus	H 3	1/C11
Soviet Economic Delegation To Pay 2-Week Visit	H 3	1/C11
Plans for Romanian Premier's Visit Reported	H 3	1/C11

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Official Spokesman Denounces U.S. Arms Policy	I 1	1/C12
Spokesman Tells Carter To Keep Out of Africa	I 1	1/C12
Tripoli VOAH: Libya Suitable for Mediating in Horn	I 2	1/C13
JANA Attacks Egypt's 'Lies Against Jamahiriyah'	I 3	1/C14
Foreign Minister Holds Talks With SED's Lamberz	I 4	1/B1

MOROCCO

King Hassan Comments on Sahara, Shaba, As-Sadat	I 4	1/B1
Disagreement Voiced With Spanish Left Over Canaries [LE MATIN 25 Mar 78]	I 6	1/D3

SUDAN

Numayri Urges End to Soviet Presence in Africa	I 7	1/D7

ISRAEL

Dayan Proposes Partial Implementation of Peace Plan	N 1	1/D5
Dayan's Misleading Evaluation of Egyptian Moves Criticized [AL HAMISHMAR 3 Mar 78]	N 1	1/D5
Sinai Settlements Not Mentioned in As-Sadat Letter [MA'ARIV 3 Mar 78]	N 3	1/D7
Knesset Committee Head Arens Discusses U.S. Visit	N 3	1/D7
Activities Surrounding Begin's U.S. Trip Reported	N 5	1/D9
Cabinet Meets, Begin Comments	N 5	1/D9
Baraq Expected To Accompany Begin	N 5	1/D9
Defense Minister Weizman Departs for United States	N 6	1/D10
Comments on Negotiations	N 6	1/D10
MA'ARIV: U.S. Has Broken No Promises in Arab Arms Deal [5 Mar 78]	N 7	1/D11
IDF Prevents Qadesh Barne'a Settlers From Entering Fields	N 9	1/D13
Weizman Favors Strengthening W. Bank Settlements [HA'AREZ 5 Mar 78]	N 9	1/D13
Weizman Orders Freeze on Work at New W. Bank Settlement	N 9	1/D13
Official Explains Order	N 9	1/D13
IDF Services Discontinued	N 10	1/D14
Elon More Group To Establish New W. Bank Settlement	N 10	1 D14
New Housing Units Set Up at Shilo Camp	N 10	1/D14
Changing Ideas Within Likud on Settlement Issue Noted [HA'AREZ 3 Mar 78]	N 11	1/E1

IRAN

Teheran Reports Attack on Iranian Embassy in GDR	R 1	1/E4
Ambassador Withdrawn	R 1	1/E4
JOURNAL Justifies Action	R 1	1/E4
GDR Goods Boycotted	R 3	1/E6
Khalatbari Departs for Baghdad, Views Prospects	R 3	1/E6
Returns From Baghdad	R 4	1/E7
U.S.-Iranian Economic Talks Begin in Washington	R 4	1/E7

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Zia Receives PRC Friendship Delegation 3 Mar S 1

INDIA

Formal Indian-Afgan Talks Open in Delhi 4 Mar S 1
Daud Press Conference S 2
Daud, Reddy Banquet Speeches S 2
Daud, Desai Address Parliament S 5
Daud Concludes Visit S 7

I 4.8 53-6:6 PrEx 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-44
Cont
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'ARAFAT SENDS LETTERS TO LEADERS ON EGYPTIAN MOVES

JN031653Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the revolution, today sent letters to the Arab heads of state on the recent measures taken by the Egyptian authorities against the Palestinians. Our radio correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar explained to the Arab heads of state the attitude of the Palestinian revolution regarding these measures.

Further Details

JN041819Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Yesterday evening brother leader Abu 'Ammar sent letters to Arab kings and presidents related to the punishment campaign the Egyptian authorities are conducting against the Palestinian people in Egypt and the occupied Gaza Strip. The letters also deal with the ferocious propaganda campaign launched by the Egyptian information media on instructions from the Egyptian authorities so as to harm the struggle of the Palestinian people and revolutionaries. This campaign is also aimed at breeding enmity and stirring up feelings of rancor and hatred among the Egyptian people against the Palestinian people.

In his letter to the Arab kings and presidents, brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed the PLO stand toward the Nicosia Hilton Hotel operation and the tragedy of Larnaca airport. He also exposed the parties behind the first operation and the aims they sought to achieve. Moreover, brother Abu 'Ammar exposed the premeditated exploitation by the Egyptian authorities of the Larnaca tragedy--a tragedy which was instigated by these same authorities.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar concluded his letters by appealing to the Arab kings and presidents to shoulder their pan-Arab and national responsibilities to put an end to the Egyptian campaign against the Palestinian people and their armed revolution.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM SOVIET, YUGOSLAV LEADERS

JN031441Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today received messages from the Soviet leaders and Yugoslav President Tito. The messages were conveyed to 'Arafat by the Soviet and Yugoslav ambassadors in Beirut. Reporting this today, WAFA did not disclose the contents of the two messages, but said that they were important. It should be recalled that 'Arafat will visit Moscow next Monday in response to an official invitation.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CUBAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

JN051651Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, yesterday received the Cuban charge d'affaires to Lebanon and was handed a private congratulatory letter from Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The radio correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar asked the Cuban charge d'affaires to convey a verbal message to Comrade Castro regarding the current situation in the region.

Yesterday Abu 'Ammar also met with the Permanent Secretariat of the General Federation of Palestinian Workers and explained to them the current political situation. He also became acquainted with the conditions of the Palestinian workers in various areas.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH SED DELEGATION LED BY VERNER

JN021613Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar received in Damascus yesterday afternoon the SED delegation from the GDR headed by Paul Verner, member of the SED Politburo, in the presence of brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department. During the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, talks were held on Palestinian-GDR relations, the Middle East situation and the recent developments in the region on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

In the evening Abu 'Ammar and Abu al-Lutf met with Fatah cadres and the Palestinian popular organizations at the mobilization and organization center for 3 continuous hours during which they reviewed and discussed the situation through which the Palestinian revolution is passing and the challenges facing our cause and people.

QADDUMI MEETS WITH GDR AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN041908Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, this morning received the GDR ambassador in Beirut. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the current situation in the Middle East.

Yesterday brother Abu al-Lutf received a delegation of the Mexican Workers Socialist Party led by (Prasco Romerus), secretary general of the party; (Raphael Karmandis), member of the Executive Committee; and (Fraiza Bergman), member of the party's Foreign Relations Department. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Hafiz, official in charge of foreign relations. The 2-hour meeting dealt with the current Middle East situation as well as the situation in Mexico and Latin America in general. The viewpoints of both sides were in agreement.

DAMASCUS SAYS PLO DELEGATION DUE IN AMMAN IN MARCH

JN030955Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A PLO delegation will arrive in Amman in March to discuss with Jordanian officials the developments of the situation in the area and the current Arab situation. Well-informed sources have stated that the Palestinian delegation will be headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the Military Department; Hani al-Hasan, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman; and Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council.

PAPER LISTS PLO DEMANDS FOR JORDANIAN DIALOG

NC060955Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 6 March--Quoting well-informed Palestinian sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says today that the PLO has drawn up three demands for the resumption of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog and that the PLO will agree to hold the dialog on the basis of these demands. The sources indicate that the PLO demands can be summed up in the following points:

1. Permission for the stablishment of military bases for the Palestinian resistance in the Jordan Valley and south of the Dead Sea. The PLO will not object to military coordination between these forces and the Jordanian Army if Palestinian forces are stationed in the Jordan Valley.

2. Jordan's full commitment to the resolutions adopted by the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences. These resolutions stipulate that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

3. The establishment of the PLO political committees in the 10 Palestinian camps in Jordan.

The Palestinian sources indicate that they do not consider these demands as conditions for the resumption of the dialog as much as a basis on which the two sides can concentrate during the dialog.

PLO OFFICIAL SAYS DIALOG WITH JORDAN NOT TO RESUME

NC051032Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 5 March--Majid Abu Shararah, the official in charge of the PLO's Unified Information Department, has stated that the PLO will never agree to resume the dialog with Jordan "because Jordan's aim behind the dialog is to assume the right to represent the Palestinians and cancel the Rabat summit resolution."

In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Abu Shararah said that Jordan has offered superficial concessions such as willingness to restore relations with the PLO, allow the return of a number of PLO establishments to Amman and permit the return of a number of Palestinian fedayeen as part of the liberation army forces.

Abu Shararah also said that the PLO is coming under much pressure to resume the dialog with Jordan. In conclusion, Abu Shararah said that he believes that in the event the dialog is not resumed, the Jordanian Government will call for an Arab summit conference with the aim of assuming the right to represent the Palestinians.

Al-Fahum Statement

NC031512Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Damascus, 3 March--Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PLO Central Council, denied here today the press reports that a resumption of the dialog between the PLO and Jordan is imminent. Al-Fahum told a group of reporters that these are mere rumors and utter nonsense. He added that this matter was not discussed at all during the Central Council meetings and there have been no contacts between the PLO and Jordan in this connection.

KUWAIT

CABINET DISCUSSES DROP IN VALUE OF DOLLAR

NC051206Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 March--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stated that the Kuwaiti Cabinet today discussed issues related to the fall in the value of the dollar and its effect on oil royalties. He added that the ministerial committee formed to study this matter will report to the cabinet during its next session.

Asked whether Kuwait intends to send an envoy to the gulf states to explain its views on this matter, he said that this will be decided on the basis of the report to be submitted to the cabinet. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that Kuwait is feeling the loss resulting from the drop in the value of the dollar. This, he said, is a vital matter and Kuwait is interested in preserving its oil royalties. He added that this matter also concerns the states which rely on oil as a main source of income.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM DISCUSSES POSITION OF DOLLAR

LD040024Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Our Problem With the Dollar"]

[Text] The position of the dollar has become a real crisis for the oil countries. Yesterday his highness the amir expressed grave concern over the deterioration of the dollar and its impact on oil revenues.

In fact this situation is no longer tolerable. We again write about this subject so as to ask anew and with a louder voice for the adoption of an urgent and unified stand toward a matter than can no longer be tolerated or argued. The losses are very heavy, and, in any circumstances, we have no choice but to bear them, whether it is because of the deficit in the U.S. balance of payments resulting from oil purchases, as the Americans allege, or because of a campaign the United States is waging in order to strike at the economies of other industrial states and to exhaust the oil countries.

Obviously the American game is aimed at the second party; it is not caused by the first.

Naturally we refuse to be the "cat's paw" or the "striking arm" of the U.S. policy in striking at the world economy and undermining Europe in particular. Also we refuse to be blackmailed by the United States or to be used against our own interests.

There is no need for us to repeat that the United States does not deserve any assistance from us because not only was it not satisfied with crushing us politically and militarily but it is also now seeking to crush us economically.

Must we remain broken under the U.S. hegemony and must we not stand up and awaken from this slumber?

We do not wish here to discuss a subject that has often been discussed. The natural thing to do now is to take the initiative to turn the Kuwaiti attitude, which his highness expressed, into a general Arab attitude so that the exhausting of oil in the interest of the Americans free of charge and without return will stop.

AS-SIYASAH: ROCKEFELLER STATEMENTS UNACCEPTABLE

LD040045Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 2 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, has every right to take security precautions by protecting himself with four armed men, who accompanied him at the airport when he arrived 4 days ago. This was not a point of discussion. But unofficial financial sources have noticed that at the end of his gulf tour Rockefeller seemed deeply upset, probably because of the gulf countries' refusal of the U.S. policy of not intervening to support the dollar.

Apparently it was because of such mood that Mr Rockefeller's statements at Kuwait airport implied threats to the oil countries that if they abandon the dollar the United States on its part will retaliate with its own means. Although there has been no reaction by Kuwait to these threats, many gulf, Arab and international quarters have considered these threats unacceptable and more serious than just a violation of protocol.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH SEES ATHERTON MISSION AS DISAPPOINTING

LD040028Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] If we tried to assess the results of Alfred Atherton's mission, we would be disappointed because there have been no positive results so far. The leaders of the enemy remain inflexible and are not prepared to abandon their intransigence. Atherton's mission has been concentrating on the attempt at trying to narrow the gap of differences between Egypt and Israel in preparation for reaching a declaration of principles. Begin, the prime minister of the Israeli enemy, called for the resumption of the work of both the Political and Military committees; but this call did not bring anything new, nor did it push the wheel of the negotiations a step forward.

"Hence the futility of the resumption of these negotiations at present emerges. Hence, too, emerges the pressure role Washington could play in compelling Israel to change her mind and respond to the legitimate Arab demands. But the American stand on this aspect does not generate enthusiasm and could never make any contribution towards progress. All that the United States had done since the beginning of the problem is to make promises and statements concerning preparedness to exert efforts for comprehensive settlement of the problem. But these promises and statements are no more than tranquilizing injections which the United States resorts to whenever it finds itself cornered and asked to use its influence over the Zionist entity.

"The latest of these injections is the statement which the U.S. President made yesterday, when he said that he hopes to find a joint formula for solving the Palestinian problem and the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations during his forthcoming talks with the enemy's prime minister, Menahem Begin, in Washington. This is not the first time that Carter meets Begin. Three decades have passed since the Middle East became an issue, during which time the United States, if it had the firm desire to end this problem, could have played a vital and effective role towards it. But this did not happen.

We are awaiting the outcome of the next few days. Let it be known to all that the Arab nation is fed up with the procrastination and tactics and cannot accept any more, particularly since all the peaceful means are about to be exhausted. The Israeli enemy has before him this opportunity to reach a peaceful settlement that might not be available in the future. This is a fact to which responsible Arab officials have drawn attention so that they will not be blamed or criticized in the future if they resort to other means that appear to be fiercer and harsher, and their consequences cannot be predicted."

Additional Commentary on Mission

LD052311Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The mission in the area of the American roving ambassador, Alfred Atherton, is drawing to a close now that he has familiarized himself with the views of some of the parties to the conflict. Observers in the region unanimously agree that Alfred Atherton's mission in the region and his shuttle tours were confined to the framework of a probing of views; there has not been the slightest mention of an American position or an American formula pertaining to a declaration of principles. The declarations made by Atherton and by American officials all indicate that Atherton's mission was to convey textually the views and proposals of the Israelis to the Egyptians and vice versa. That is what Dr Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, was doing. This method proved fruitless when it was used by Kissinger, and its use by Atherton will also be futile because there are a number of factors one should underline:

First, such a method has now become irrelevant. The initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt and the meetings of the Political and Military committees have opened the door to direct dialog. The direct dialog demanded by Israel proved to be sterile, so how, then, can indirect dialogue succeed?

Second, Israel does not show any disposition to negotiate and therefore it has posed a variety of obstacles. For example, it has reaffirmed its policy of setting up settlements and declared its intention to set up even more settlements in the occupied territories. This is in addition to Menahim Begin's strange interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. He has said that this resolution does not commit Israel to evacuating the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [words indistinct]

From this point of view, one should say that Alfred Atherton's mission is being impeded by Israeli officials, who are indeed planning to thwart peace efforts in the region. They believe that thwarting the efforts to achieve peace is the only way for them to remain in the occupied territories. Despite all this, Atherton continues his mission. He has visited a number of capitals of the region and is now preparing to return to Washington. The Israeli enemy prime minister, Menahim Begin, will then follow him there. Atherton's mission is clearly doomed to failure because of Israel's arrogant attitude.

Consequently, what is required at the international and Arab levels in view of the new situation thus created? What can the Arabs do now that they can see that plans are being hatched to maintain a state of no-war, no-peace in the region? What is required internationally if the world really wants the region to enjoy peace after these many moves?

What is most required at the Arab level is a return to inter-Arab solidarity and the strengthening of Arab ranks, because this is the only way to counter Israeli attempts to obstruct peace efforts. It is also necessary to work out an Arab policy that neither neglects peace nor disregards war. This is likely to give the Arab position continuous vitality, thus making the region less prone to danger. On the other hand, the entire world and especially the United States should play a more important role and be firmer toward Israel so as to oblige it to change its position and thus rescue the peace efforts.

OFFICIALS STATE POSITIONS ON VALUE OF DOLLAR

Finance Minister Comments

NC041000Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 March--Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl has stated that oil royalties will continue to be paid in dollars because of the absence of any other currency that can take its place. He said that it is also in the interest of Saudi Arabia and the gulf states to support the current position of the dollar, avoid anything that could lead to the continuation of its current decline and provide the suitable conditions to prompt a rise in its value once again. He said that Saudi Arabia's position on the dollar stems from the fact that it is an international reserve currency and an international exchange currency.

In an interview published in the Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH today, Shaykh Aba al-Khayl explains that the United States has the greatest economy in the world, and its gross national product has recently reached the astronomical figure of $2,000 billion. He says that if the United States is facing a temporary situation which leads to the appearance of a trade deficit, it is clear that this does not affect the strength of its economy.

Under Secretary Comments

NC061025Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 6 March--'Abd al-'Aziz at-Turki, under secretary in the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, has stated that his country has not received an invitation to attend a special OPEC conference to discuss the deterioration of the dollar on international markets.

In a statement published today in the Saudi Arabian paper AR-RIYAD, At-Turki pointed out that there are two points concerning the value of the dollar. The first is that the value of the dollar in relation to the special drawing rights is the same as the value of any commodity and is susceptible to upward or downward fluctuations. He added that what really matters are the factors leading to a drop or rise in the value of the dollar in relation to the special drawing rights. He explained that if these factors are of a nature that will lead to a continuing deterioration of the dollar, then OPEC will, as it has done in the past, do every thing to insure the interests of the member countries.

However, if the drop in the dollar is the result of short term financial and economical policies adopted by some industrial countries, then it is a different matter. At-Turki affirmed that [word indistinct] resolutions which are adopted without careful consideration will have pitfalls.

'Abd al-'Aziz at-Turki pointed out that some people get confused when they fail to distinguish between the two important roles of the dollar in relation to oil prices. First, the dollar is a means for calculating prices; that is, the price is announced in U.S. dollars. Second, the dollar is a means of payment. Concluding his statement the Saudi Arabian official affirmed that the dollar's role as a means of payment is not a matter for discussion.

MILITARY OFFICIAL STRESSES NONAGGRESSIVE POLICY

LD031342Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard, emphasized that the firm policy of the kingdom toward others is nonaggression and at the same time it resolutely disallows anyone to attack it regardless of the kind and form of such aggression. This came in an exclusive statement which his highness made to the weekly AL-YAMAMAH published today.

In this statement he said that the kingdom aims at achieving the maximum degree of economic and social development in the shortest possible time in all sectors. He said that when this involves the military sector, development assumes different dimensions, because that sector's job is to protect the faith, land and the citizen, the genuine inheritance and values of our country. His highness pointed out that development in the military sector, in spite of its cost, achieves very valuable aims, the returns of which are seen in the results of social and economic development. With regard to the National Guard, he said the aims of its development, as Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, has declared on a number of occasions, are not military, but it aims at achieving the building of a modern establishment which will contribute to the prosperity of society.

UAE

OIL MINISTER PROPOSES ESTABLISHING NEW CURRENCY

NC060931Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 March--The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, Dr Man'ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, has proposed the establishment of a new currency "basket" to include the currencies of certain OPEC countries. This is to preserve the purchasing power of those oil-producing countries' revenues which are currently based on the dollar.

In a statement published in the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH today, Dr al-'Utaybah said that this basket could include the Saudi Arabian riyal, the Kuwaiti dinar and the UAE dirham and would be for the purpose of maintaining the purchasing power of the oil revenues and not of abandoning the dollar as the basic currency. He added that the dollar will be evaluated periodically to see whether it has dropped or gone up in value in relation to other currencies. Dr al-'Utaybah expressed doubt about the usefulness of the special drawing rights system and the amended basket of currencies known as "one Geneva basket," adding that a distinction must be drawn between the estimation of oil prices and the maintenance of the purchasing power of oil revenues.

The UAE minister of petroleum said that his country is willing to attend any meeting of the OPEC countries to be agreed upon in order to discuss the deteriorating dollar.

YEMEN--PRDY

SALIM RUBAY' 'ALI RECEIVES SOVIET ENVOY

LD040020Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Salim Rubay' 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front, and chairman of the Presidential Council, this morning received Comrade Vladimir Kaboshkin, ambassador of the USSR in Aden. At their meeting the two officials discussed the cooperation and friendly relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen them. The latest developments in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa were also examined.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI DENIES ISRAELI PRESENCE ON YAR ISLANDS

NC041349Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 4 March--Chairman of the YAR Command Council Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi has described his country's relations with the Arab countries as excellent. He added that northern Yemen is not involved in the differences which have occurred among a number of brothers in the Arab arena.

In an interview published today in the Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI, he said that he strongly opposes any attempt to impose foreign influence on his country. He added that Yemen does not indulge in roles which are larger than it can cope with, does not harm the interests of other countries and that its actions stem from the Yemeni conscience without affecting the national interests and legitimate rights of other countries. Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi strongly denied the presence of Israeli military or even reconnaissance forces on Yemeni islands, on the islands of (Mayun), Perim or others. He said that Yemen's role in defending these islands is part of its national obligation.

The YAR chairman reiterated his country's demands that the Red Sea remain far removed from strife and conflicts. He expressed his concern over the continuing deterioration in the situation between the brothers in Somalia and Ethiopia, adding that he had proposed a cease-fire between them either within a bilateral context or through the United Nations or the OAU.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES VISITING DJIBOUTI DELEGATION

JN041305Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 0900 today, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received in his office at the republican palace the Djibouti delegation headed by Interior Minister Moumine Farah, currently on a visit to th Yemen Arab Republic.

During the meeting the Djibouti minister handed brother Al-Ghashmi a written message from Hassan Gouled, president of the Governing Council of Djibouti. The meeting was attended by Lt Col Muhsin al-Yusufi, interior minister and member of the People's Constituent Assembly.

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC041330Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has revealed the reasons for Algerian President Houari Boumediene's extremism toward Egypt. His excellency explained that Boumediene claims that there is an Egyptian-Moroccan attempt to contain the Algerian revolution in a manner that would threaten his ambitions to become the leader of the Arab Maghreb. The president said that the Algerian president's hatred for Morocco has prompted him to fabricate the Western Sahara problem without any basis after having announced before the Arab kings and presidents in Rabat in 1974 that Algeria had no claims in the Western Sahara and that this problem concerns Morocco and Mauritania. President as-Sadat explained Boumediene's role in the collapse of Egyptian-Libyan relations. He said that the Algerian president is anxious to keep relations between Libya and Egypt in a bad state and for them not to have good relations so that Libya will not become an extension of Egypt.

In an interview with the magazine OCTOBER, to be published in tomorrow's issue, the president said that Boumediene's interest in the maintenance of bad relations between Egypt and Libya prompted Boumediene to take part in the Tripoli conference and to accept Al-Qadhdhafi's chairmanship of it as a gesture of support and encouragement for the maintenance of these bad relations. The text of President as-Sadat's interview follows:

Question: Some of the rejectionist states are talking about returning to Geneva. Do you think that this is something strange and as if your initiative did not take place and the world has not changed? What do these states imagine and what do they expect? At the same time they are stockpiling arms and object to the weapons which we have requested and which have not yet arrived. This looks as if we are supposed to remain without weapons and not stand up and not seek another method if peace is not achieved through negotiations within the sight and hearing of the entire world.

Answer: It seems strange, but I am not surprised at what I see. The Soviets and the Syrians are demanding a return to Geneva or a move toward Geneva, beginning with a discussion about wording and procedures and so forth--that is, beginning with sessions of oral and slogan exchanges, which we have tried and through which we have achieved nothing, and we could have kept on like this for years.

However, the Syrian Ba'th Party cannot confront the Arab issue openly. It had to stand behind a screen, and this screen is the Soviet Union. This screen is its guardian and supporter. The fact that the party is small gives it a complex and makes it feel that it needs an international supporter. The Ba'th Party's feeling that it is small and represents only 2 percent of the Syrian people--and this is a fact that I heard from President al-Asad himself--prompts the party to resort to violence and physical liquidation. At the same time even foreigners have noticed that 75 percent of the Syrian Army and the Syrian people are in favor of the peace initiative. This has all been published by the world press, thus angering the philosophers and butchers of the Ba'th Party.

What is now being said in Damascus and Moscow does not mean that the initiative did not occur. It means rather that there are some who wish it had never occurred and never had this impact on the world. They confuse their wishes with reality and prefer their wishes and their illusions to this reality, which is not profitable to them and which they do not wish to continue.

Nor do they want Egypt to be in the limelight, as the case has been and will continue to be. Syria, Libya and others have objected to the supply of arms to Egypt from any country, especially the United States. I do not think anybody has a right to make such objections. I do not object to these states' being armed by the Soviet Union, and I still see Arab armament as a support for our front and for our strength, although this strength has come apart and Arab arms are being used against Arabs instead of being used against the enemies of the Arabs. What is worse is that these Arab states have become ammunition dumps and their forces have become guards for the ammunition which Soviet planes take to other small wars, which are tearing the African Continent apart.

There are other similar illusions by Al-Qadhdhafi, who wishfully thinks about an economic collapse in Egypt followed by a political and social collapse and other such illusions and ideas, which others put in his head to get what is in his big pocket. This is why Libya has contacted the Arab states to protest against the support and backing given to Egypt to enable it to buy arms.

What is really ridiculous is Syria's attitude toward Libya. I know, and others know, that Al-Qadhdhafi insulted Syria and Al-Asad as nobody has ever done before, and I intervened and objected. These are famous ugly facts, but it seems that gold has a glitter that wipes off abuse and insult very easily like faint spots on a white dress. The Syrians have admitted that all they want from Al-Qadhdhafi is money, because he is in need of a role to play and they are willing to let him play a role and thus have him as fund provider or as their gold cover. Provided he pays, it does not matter to them what he says before, during or after payment. This is why Egyptian satirists have described the rejection conference as the cashing conference. This is a typical example of Egyptian humor, or a true example of the Egyptian way of being philosophical about the things which they do not like.

Question: Mr President, when you talk about Syria, you always make a distinction between the Syrian people and the Syrian Ba'th Party. This indicates that there is a great gap between the views of the party and the feelings of the people. You tend to excuse the people but not the party. You always give Syria as an example of this phenomenon. Is Syria the only state in the Arab world with such a gap, and has this gap become a trap generating misunderstanding between the Arab states regarding the fateful decisions or decisions which have changed the face of the Arab world, such as the October war and your peace initiative?

Answer: Exactly, but I want to go back to this point of differentiation and to move on from Syria to Algeria, but for different reasons. I believe that the masses are right and their feelings are instinctive and they never lie. In my long and hard experience, the masses, with their true feelings, have never let me down. Leaders are like doctors. They feel the pulse of the masses. Then they make their diagnosis and prescribe medicine. This also is political instinct and is not born overnight, nor is it acquired. It is a quality or a talent from God. This is why I am with the masses.

After the 1967 setback in Egypt, our hearts and ranks were shattered and despair prevailed among the people. The Arab masses felt that the world had come to an end, that the Arab world from the gulf to the ocean was but a still corpse, that our cries were empty echos and our hopes were shadows with no light.

For us everything was coming to an end, while for Israel everything was just beginning. Their fairytale dreams about a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates, or even further north or south, were revived, or that Israel was born to triumph and the Arabs lived to be defeated, or every Israeli is a hero, or Israel fights the (?threat) from across the borders, or the Israeli soldier represents the excellent quality and the Arab soldier represents the backward quantity. All the radios of the world and all the press and the books opened the earth and dug a deep grave for us so that we could throw ourselves in and so that the wind of despair could blow and cover us with earth and so that a merciful hand could place an epitaph on the grave with the inscription "they came and now they are gone forever."

I excuse the masses because their feelings are genuine. They were insulted and their dignity trampled on by the enemy and offended by the pens of their own people. I do not excuse the leaders or the political and ideological commands, however, because their first duty is to dispel the despair and the darkness and fight death and console, dress the wounds, wipe off the tears of the masses and stand up and die standing up.

In view of the despondency that prevailed in Egypt and the Arab world, it was my duty to attempt to close the ranks in Egypt, to bring the hearts outside Egypt together and to bring the friends and brothers together. It was also my duty to face the entire world with persistence and courage, for we are a great and ancient nation and if we lose a battle it does not mean that we have lost the war. It does not mean that it is a farewell to life or to hope of victory.

It was a difficult task. The October victories were [words indistinct] and a peace for us and for generations to come. If it had not been for the October victories there would not have been a peace initiative. But if the October victories found some hearts for Egypt, the peace initiative enraged other hearts--not the hearts of the people but the hearts of some rulers.

President Boumediene hurt me a great deal when the Egyptian chief of staff went to him to inform him that Egypt was preparing for war. That was in September 1973, a few weeks before the battle. The chief of staff asked him about Algeria's role in the coming war. Here I will go back to say that only the people are excused. But I do not find any excuse for a military or political leadership that does not know the meaning of preparing for war and the meaning that war is "a science" which is difficult and extremely complicated.

What the Egyptian chief of staff heard from the Algerian president dismayed him. The Algerian president told him: When Egypt decides to enter the war, please let me know 3 months in advance of the fighting. In other words, he wanted us to notify him of the exact day of the fighting. We then had to count 90 days on our fingers and ask him: What is your role and what can you give to the battle?

In contrast, when the chief of staff asked King Hassan II about his role, the latter said: Morocco is ready and prepared to give all you ask for. He then expressed hope for victory for Egypt and the Arabs.

I had made the decision to enter the war some weeks before that and the preparation of everything had been completed. Our forces had been trained in positions very similar to those where the battles would be raging and under the same conditions.

However, President Boumediene did not believe or imagine that we would be fighting. Even if he imagined that we would be fighting, what he asked for was absurd: that we should notify him 3 months before the fighting commenced. The masses are excused if fear and despondency forced them to refuse to believe that preparations for war had been made, but there is no excuse for a politician and a fighter like Boumediene.

President Boumediene did what Al-Qadhdhafi had done earlier. I had asked Al-Qadhdhafi for planes--the planes about which he trumpeted to the world that he had purchased for Egypt. He sent the planes after making me dizzy. He sent 25 planes, half of which were not airworthy. It is a story which is well known and confirmed.

As a fighter, Boumediene knows what war and the necessary hard training mean. But what he told the Egyptian chief of staff--if he were not acquainted with contemporary war, which id different from guerrilla warfare--indicates the suspicion and defeatism that prevailed at the time.

Those who have read the history of World War II know that when the Americans decided to participate in the invasion of Normandy, they sent their forces to Britain to train for it over a year before the invasion was to take place. America did not tell Britain: Notify us 3 months before the invasion.

It is well known that preparations for war require that the fighters receive complete training in their duties so that if war breaks out they feel that the war itself is only a violent continuation of the training. The same thing happens in famous theaters. The cast must have "a dress rehersal" at which the actors wear their costumes and the hall is filled with spectators. It is a full dress rehersal. Training for fighting is a full dress rehersal on the same arena of operations with only one difference: There are no spectators, but one theatrical group firing to stop what the opposition theatrical group is doing, to the extent of martyrdom, victory and glory.

The argument of the Egyptian chief of staff ended. He is still alive. Boumediene said something else that is no less blameworthy: He said that not entering the battle is a disaster, but entering it is a double disaster.

Question: But the Algerian president's stand later changed. This meant that he did not believe what you said and what we repeated after you. Then suddenly he came over to our side, even more than we anticipated. What caused the change in his evaluation of the situation and in his general behavior and that of the Algerian people along with him?

Answer: For the historical record I say that President Boumediene contacted us daily during the battle to ask about its progress. King Hssan II and other Arab brothers did the same. Boumediene even saw the surrender of Israeli commander ('Assaf Yajuri) on Egyptian television. He also saw the Israeli prisoners of war. Boumediene then realized that the war was a serious one and that our forces scored victories which nobody expected. The rest is well known to us and to the whole world.

Boumediene visited us after the cease-fire. He personally told me that he was going to the Soviet Union on the sixth day of the battle. He told me that the Algerian Council of the Revolutionary was in session from the first day of the battle.

They kept watching the situation with concern about our fate, while the world was reiterating the Israeli leaders' statement that they would break our bones once and for all. However, the first, the second and the sixth day passed. The news agencies were carrying reports on the battle quoting Israel radio. Later they found out that Israel was lying and misleading the world. The world news agencies and radios then began quoting the Egyptian reports. We maintained accuracy and objectivity in reporting. We thus won the world's respect for our radios.

Boumediene told me: We said to ourselves that since the war continued for 6 days, we consider Egypt as having won the war despite the fact that Syria retreated behind its first line. For this reason I secretly went to the Soviet Union and met with the Soviet leaders.

Boumediene personally told me: During my meeting with the Soviet leaders, Brezhnev, Podgornyy and Kosygin, I told them: You are now watching the developments in the fighting, and you must support Egypt and Syria. They said: We support Syria. Brezhnev then began to attack you. I frankly felt embarrassed, annoyed and disgusted. Brezhnev said that As-Sadat would lose the whole world, including Egypt, and all the progressive regimes in the area. Brezhnev added: Syria asked us three times to bring about a cease-fire but As-Sadat insisted on refusing. As-Sadat is a mad man and so on. In order to end this hot debate, Boumediene added, I changed the discussion and said: I am a customer coming to you to buy arms, what do you say? Brezhnev said: I agree. Boumediene said: Here is $200 million, half of which is for Egypt and half for Syria. We want to send arms to both states. Brezhnev said: I agree.

Boumediene then told me: Later I returned to Algeria without letting the Algerian people know that I went to Moscow. In Algeria I found the Council of the Revolution still in session. I acquainted the council with what took place in Moscow. I told the council's members that I wanted to disclose to them something very strange--that is, that if Israel and the United States wanted to destroy As-Sadat once, Russia wanted to destroy As-Sadat a thousand times. I will not forget Boumediene's noble, pure Arab stand.

Boumediene took another such stand. He sent 150 tanks after the cease-fire. These tanks came at the time the "bulge" [Israeli penetration] took place. These tanks came by land across Libya to Egypt at the most appropriate time. One hundred forty tanks, supplied with fuel, were also from Yugoslavia by the great President Tito. We then withdrew 100 tanks Al-Qadhdhafi, as we later learned, was eager to keep these tanks in position as a step toward realizing the dream of invasion and domination of Egypt.

We cordoned off the bulge with more than 800 tanks. I will not forget Boumediene's stand. When he visited me in Alexandria last year--he had made a brief stopover in Tripoli during the disciplinary action which our forces carried out against the Libyan tampering--I immediately told him: Your visit made me halt the military operations against Libya. If you had come 2 days later, we would have adopted a more severe stand. In fact, I instructed the minister of war to halt all operations and withdraw the forces which entered Jaghbub. We never intended to occupy someone else's territory but only to teach Al-Qadhdhafi a lesson. We did this.

Question: Mr President, Boumediene then changed and became an extremist in his anti-Egypt policy, to the point of going to Tripoli and accepting Al-Qadhdhafi as his chairman and of going to the Arab countries in search of support for his position. What happened to him personally, or mentally? What made him so angry with Egypt?

Answer: The picture became clearer to me afterward. I am optimistic by nature, and therefore I have a good opinion of people. I prefer to have a good opinion at first and a poor opinion later. This makes it easy for me and those working with me. Instead of being tense, I prefer to think and work quietly and have those who are with me do the same. A tense person is liable to make big mistakes and if a tense person is a head of state, he is bound to make more serious mistakes. My method of evaluating people and tackling private and public affairs gives me psychological and practical rest.

There might be something in Boumediene's nature which I am not aware of. Let us consider his attitude toward Ben Bella, the true leader of the Algerian revolution and the first to proclaim it to the world. Boumediene has kept Ben Bella in prison for 13 years. Ben Bella could have entered Algeria from Morocco alone with the Algerian Army but he preferred to take Boumediene, the commander of the Algerian forces at the time, with him. Boumediene overthrew and arrested Ben Bella during the preparations for the 10th Afro-Asian summit conference in Algiers.

Was it what Boumediene did to Ben Bella that caused Boumediene to adopt his well-known attitude toward Morocco, which supported the Algerian revolution? King Mohamed V did a lot for Algeria. He adopted the Algerian rebels and gave them his land to fight from and from which to march on their country against the French forces, against the French forces which rebelled against De Gaulle and against the Provisional Algerial Government under Ben Khedda. The Moroccan king and people did all this and more.

Boumediene's behavior toward Morocco and its king is not different from his attitude toward Ben Bella. Boumediene does not like to be in anybody's debt. In other words, he feels embarrassed if somebody does him a favor. Boumediene shifted his hatred of King Mohamed V to include King Hassan II.

Boumediene has some fears because he lays claim to the leadership of the Arab Maghreb. He says that there is an attempt to contain the Algerian revolution. This containment begins in Egypt and ends in Morocco. In other words, Boumediene considers Egypt's support for Morocco and Morocco's support for Egypt as a siege and containment of the Algerian revolution. He fears that his leadership of the Arab Maghreb might be harmed or threatened by someone from the [Arab] east or west.

Boumediene sees in King Hassan's armament from the United States and his close ties with it as a danger to the Algerian revolution. All this goes to show that the issue of the Maghreb Sahara has been fabricated by Boumediene himself. This issue has no basis, as Boumediene himself admits. At a closed session of the 1974 Rabat conference Boumediene declared--and this is recorded in his own voice--that Algeria had no demands in the Maghreb desert and that this was a question which concerned Morocco and Mauritania. This took place before Spain's withdrawal from the Maghreb desert.

After Franco's death, King Carlos took over. He corrected his country's internal and external policies and Spain withdrew from the Maghreb desert. Boumediene flew into a rage, demanded his share and supported the gangs of rebels. This is despite the fact that Boumediene had declared before the kings and presidents that the dossier of the Sahara issue was closed and that he had nothing to do with it whatsoever.

Question: Mr President, this shows why Boumediene disagreed with King Hassan and thus with us and that he will maintain this attitude. But how has Boumediene agreed with Al-Qadhdhafi, despite their many differences, to the extent that he came here to mediate between Al-Qadhdhafi and Egypt and to the point that he went to Tripoli and accepted Al-Qadhdhafi as his chairman?

Answer: Boumediene's attitude toward Al-Qadhdhafi is related to his attitude toward King Hassan, despite the tremendous difference between those two and King Hassan. King Hassan is a skilled politician and intelligent and eloquent, and he is well versed in Arab and world culture. Boumediene's position is quite different. I heard it from him personally. I was surprised by his view but this is a fact. Boumediene told me that he would not agree to have Egypt's border adjoin Algeria's--that is, that he would not agree that there should be good relations between Egypt and Libya whereby Libya would be considered as an extension of Egypt under any form.

I heard this from Boumediene himself. When he came to visit me in Alexandria, we spent a whole night discussing Arab world affairs. He did not ask me to withdraw my forces from Libya, although I knew he came specifically for this purpose. I also knew he had a very poor opinion of Al-Qadhdhafi. He preferred the bad situation between us and Libya to some other situation that would make Egypt and Libya as compatible as milk and honey, because this milk and honey would have been bitter poison to Boumediene. Therefore, Boumediene wanted the bad situation between Egypt and Libya to continue and he hoped it would even worsen latter. This would have pleased him. He accepted Al-Qadhdhafi as chairman of the Tripoli conference in order to consolidate and encourage these bad relations.

When the conference convened again in Algiers, Al-Qadhdhafi arrived a day late. Boumediene did not object. He did not object to this insult by Al-Qadhdhafi, whose purpose was to stress to them that they were nothing without him. Boumediene swallowed this insult. I remember that Boumediene went mad when he learned about the Jarbah conference in Tunisia. He was mad because a rapprochement was taking place between Al-Qadhdhafi and Bourguiba under his very nose and without his knowledge. He telephoned the Algerian ambassador in Tripoli, talked to him and cursed the fathers of the ambassador and Al-Qadhdhafi. The curse took the form of very repugnant expressions. Boumediene told me that he cursed the religion of Al-Qadhdhafi and of all members of the Libyan Revolution Council. Boumediene told me he did this intentionally because telephone conversations are recorded and he wanted the curses to reach Al-Qadhdhafi. The curses did reach Al-Qadhdhafi, but despite this Boumediene supported Al-Qadhdhafi's views on everything as long as these views were anti-Egypt and anti-Morocco.

What I find funny is that when Boumediene came to see me he told me Al-Qadhdhafi feared that Egypt might march on Libya from Chad. This hallucination amazed me and made our military commanders laugh. I explained the truth of the situation in Chad to Boumediene. It turned out later that Al-Qadhdhafi and Boumediene had plotted together against Chad and Niger.

Question: Mr President, the Algerian president has changed and intensified his stand against Egypt, so that he, too, is objecting to the U.S. arming of Egypt, exactly as the others who rejected the initiative are doing. Does Boumediene have some other opinion on how it is possible to arm Egypt so that it can defend its land, or does Boumediene adopt any stand as long as it is against Egypt or against Egypt and Morocco together?

Answer: This attitude has a historical background which dates back to 1976. When we were in Alexandria, Boumediene spoke to me about Soviet Defense Minister Grechko's visit to Algeria. Boumediene told me that the Soviet minister was in Algiers 4 days and that he spent 3 of them discussing my stand on the Soviet arms. We had by then abrogated the treaty and the Soviet arms embargo was completely enforced. I also had issued my decision to diversify the source of weapons. Boumediene told me that it was this decision and not the decisions to expel the Soviet experts, enter the war or abrogate the treaty which pained the Soviets. The decision to diversify the source of weapons disturbed the Soviet leadership because it wanted the Soviet arms to remain a chain fettering our hands. They gave us weapons under their own conditions, and when we did not submit to these conditions, they withheld the weapons. Their idea was to withhold the weapons, and as we had no other source we would give in and give them all they wanted. Their weapons were indeed weapons for us, but when they did not reach us they became weapons against us, and that is what they wanted.

This surprised me. I had thought that the decision expelling the Soviet experts was more degrading and serious. I had also thought that the abrogation of the treaty was more violent. I had not thought that the diversification of the source of Egyptian arms was the most serious of these decisions. I was especially surprised by the fact that President Boumediene was convinced of the Soviet view that I should not have resorted to others but only to the Russians.

Boumediene told me: But you won the war with Soviet arms. I told him: This is correct, but the Soviet arms were not as modern as the Soviet arms given to others. Moreover, the Soviet arms were 20 years behind the U.S. arms the Israelis had. Therefore, the deficiency in arms was overcome by our men's great performance and admirable efficiency. Then our purchase of Soviet arms was not a justification for giving the Russians Marsa Matruh or other bases.

Boumediene, who went to the Arab countries repeating what Al-Qadhdahafi had said, still maintains such a stand. Just imagine that he has denounced the stand of the Arab states which support Egypt, bless its initiative and help it to buy arms from any source. Boumediene went to the Arab leaders to complain about me. He told them: As-Sadat has forbidden me to enter Egypt now; I am now forbidden to enter Egypt.

It is strange that he should regard this as an insult to him and a degradation of him. God, if only this were his own view. It is an echo of Al-Qadhdhafi. It is regrettable that Boumediene should be shorter than Al-Qadhdhafi or that he should be an echo or a distorted replica of Al-Qadhdhafi.

Some months ago a Western leader went to Moscow. I heard the strangest thing from him: That Brezhnev had taken up with him the question of Egypt's diversification of the source of arms and the fact that we were going to buy arms from the United States.

This decision continues to pain the Soviet leadership and its lackeys in the area. However, this political leader had conveyed to me the dialog that took place between him and the Soviet leaders.

He asked them: What are your views on As-Sadat's initiative?

They said: It is treason.

He asked: What are your views on a Palestinian state?

They said: The Palestinians must have a state.

He asked: What are your views on withdrawal?

They said: It must be comprehensive.

He said: But all this is what As-Sadat declared in the Knesset in Jerusalem. He still adheres to this. How would you envisage As-Sadat's confronting such issues and remaining without arms from you or from others?

All this took place before the United States decided on the number of planes and vehicles it would sell and send to us.

A president of a friendly European state had asked me about the U.S. arms for Egypt. My answer was that the most important thing in this deal was my eagerness to break Israel's monopoly of U.S. arms. The United States took a further step by placing all the arms deals in the Middle East on the table, that is, selling arms to all--Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia--or none.

U.S. arms and friendship have been monopolized by Israel since the time of Ben-Gurion in 1953. Ben-Gurion tried to ruin U.S. friendship with Egypt by sending terrorists to Cairo to blow up U.S. establishments and U.S. friendship. Menahem Begin is upholding this policy and is attempting to prevent or undermine U.S.-Egyptian friendship.

The caravan of peace will continue on its course, surrounded by ugly voices seeking to defeat this great aspiration of mankind, but these will never succeed.

ATHERTON ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FROM BEGIN

NC051927Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1918 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 March--President Carter's envoy to the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, arrived in Cairo from Amman on a private plane this evening following the conclusion of his visit to Jordan. On arrival Atherton said he is carrying a personal message to President Anwar as-Sadat from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin containing Israel's stand on the proposals for a declaration of principles for a settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Tomorrow morning Atherton will hold talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil on the latest developments in the Middle East situation. Atherton was received at the airport by Muhsin ad-Diwani, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, and Herman Eilts, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

AS-SADAT REVIEWS ISMAILIA REPORT ON AGRICULTURE

NC041936Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Concluding his visit to the canal area, President Anwar as-Sadat today reviewed a report on the measures adopted to turn part of the land in Ismailia Province into a plantation for vegetables, fruits and untraditional produce. This is aimed at achieving food security for the canal area and other provinces in implementation of President as-Sadat's directives in this respect. The report, which was submitted by Ismailia Governor Maj Gen Muhammad Zaki 'Abd al-Latif, also includes the measures taken to modify the agricultural cycle and improve the soil in order to increase production and arable land in the province.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES LORD MOUNTBATTEN ON 4 MARCH

NC041809Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Lord Mountbatten, the uncle of her majesty the queen of Britain. Lord Mountbatten arrived in Cairo on 24 February for a visit in response to an invitation by President as-Sadat.

Mountbatten Leaves Cairo

NC041811Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 March--Lord Mountbatten, the uncle of Queen Elizabeth, the queen of Britain, left Cairo for London this evening after a 1-week visit to Egypt in response to an invitation by President as-Sadat.

AS-SADAT LEAVES ISMAILIA FOR CAIRO ON 5 MARCH

NC051056Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 5 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat left Ismailia this morning for Cairo. He was accompanied by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the Ismailia parliamentary group. The president was seen off at An-Nakhil airport in Ismailia by Ismailia Governor Maj Gen Mahmud Zaki 'Abd al-Latif, Suez Canal Authority Chairman Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, 2d Field Army Commander Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali, Suez Canal University President Dr 'Abd al-Majid 'Uthman and the popular and executive commands.

AS-SADAT WILL VISIT ISMAILIA AGAIN IN JUNE

NC051229Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 5 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat stated before leaving Ismailia today that he will visit Ismailia again in June, which will coincide with the third anniversary of the reopening of the Suez Canal. President as-Sadat added that during his visit he will meet with the teaching staff of the Suez Canal University and inspect the university buildings.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I RECEIVES PLO DELEGATION

NC051452Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 March--Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, speaker of the People's Assembly, today received Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department, who was accompanied by an eight-member delegation.

ROMANIA TO LOOK AFTER EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN CYPRUS

NC041358Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--The Romanian Government today agreed to look after Egyptian interests in Cyprus. It is known that Britain will look after Cyprus interests in Cairo. It should be noted that Egypt broke off diplomatic relations with Cyprus following the treacherous attack the Cyprus National Guard launched on 19 February at Larnaca airport against the Egyptian shock force unit while the unit was carrying out its mission to free the hostages detained by the two terrorists who assassinated Yusuf as-Siba'i on 18 February.

CYPRIOT COMMUNITY DENOUNCES LARNACA INCIDENT

NC051517Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 March--All members of the Cypriot community in the Arab Republic of Egypt have denounced the incident which took place at Larnaca airport on 19 February in which 15 men of the shock force were martyred as a result of the Cyprus authorities' treachery.

In a cable received today by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim from head of the Cypriot community Sofoklis Kristofidhis, the members of the community praised the bravery of the Egyptian soldiers in performing their task against terrorism. They said they share Egypt's sorrow at losing some of its heroes. All members of the Cypriot community also criticized the ugly crime committed in Cyprus on 18 February in which the martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i was the victim.

TWO WOUNDED SOLDIERS RETURN TO CAIRO FROM CYPRUS

NC042005Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--Lt 'Awad Khalil al-Jammal and (?Lt) Mukhtar Yusuf 'Afifi, who were wounded at Larnaca airport in Cyprus during the rescue of the hostages held in the Cypriot aircraft and the arrest of the two terrorists who assassinated Yusuf as-Siba'i, returned to Cairo this evening. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi and senior commanders of the armed forces. Immediately after their arrival, the two wounded went to Al-Ma'adi Hospital to complete their treatment.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

LD042317Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Barre arrived in Cairo tonight from Rome on a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil on the lastest developments in the Horn of Africa. On arrival the Somali minister was received by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Afrah and the Somali ambassador in Cairo.

CAIRO RADIO CALLS U.S. STAND ON PALESTINIANS VAGUE

NC051425Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "An Analysis of U.S. President Carter's Statements on the Legitimate Rights of the Palestinians"]

[Text] In press statements published yesterday, U.S. President Jimmy Carter emphasized that the Middle East problem is the most pressing problem in the world at present. He added that there would be no lasting settlement of this problem if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the right of all states in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized borders are not taken into consideration. The American President added that he will continue to do his utmost to contribute to a comprehensive settlement of this problem, which he described as regrettable.

These statements by the U.S. President come at a time when the contacts which the U.S. assistant secretary of state is holding with Egypt and Israel have reached a delicate stage and on the eve of the projected visit by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the United States.

It is known that the U.S. stand on the current peace efforts is summed up in the following two main points:

1. The United States considers the establishment of Israeli settlements or colonies in the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967 as an illegal action. Washington has voiced this opinion in more than one official statement.

2. Regarding the question of Palestine, the U.S. attitude lacks a lot of clarity. Egypt demands the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and their right to set up their independent state in the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza sector. The United States has announced that the Palestinians must have a say in the question of their self-determination. This is a vague stand if we take into consideration that Washington opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Consequently, Washington's view that the Palestinians must participate in determining their fate is vitiated by fundamental reservations.

The situation the way we have reviewed it indicates that there is a difference in the stands of Egypt and Washington on the Palestinian question.

The stand of Begin's government as declared so far, is summed up in the fact that the Israeli Government refuses to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders and that Begin's government wants to keep the settlements which it has set up in the occupied Arab territory--in the West Bank of the Jordan River and in Egyptian Sinai. The attitude of the Israeli Government toward the Palestinian question is one of rejecting the Palestinians' participation in the right to determine their fate and also of rejecting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The entire world knows that the Begin government's stand is an arbitrary stand based on the imposition of aggression and expansion and on the usurpation of all the Palestinian people's legitimate rights that are guaranteed by the UN Charter and resolutions and international law principles.

The question at this very delicate stage in the Middle East problem is: What can the United States, which has undertaken the responsibility of carrying out an effective role in the problem, do vis-a-vis the stand of Menahem Begin's government? Any answer to this question would be premature. Logic behooves Washington to exert pressure on Israel. Washington has the means to exert pressure but it has adhered so far to its known stand--refraining from imposing anything on the parties of the conflict. In view of all this, we can do nothing but wait and see what the developments will be.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON 'ARAFAT'S TRIP TO USSR

JN052055Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Sa'd Saghlul Nassar commentary]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization, will shortly make his pilgrimage to Moscow. This is after 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of Marxist South Yemen; Jallud, prime minister of the Libyan Jamahiriyah of Al-Qadhdhafi; and the lion of Tishrin [the Syrians call their President al-Asad Tishrin, which means lion of October], the president of Ba'thist Syria, also made their pilgrimages to Moscow. We have no doubt that we will shortly hear and read statements from Abu 'Ammar, alias Yasir 'Arafat, which will not be different from those of the lion of Tishrin during his visit to Moscow's sanctuary when he said: A just peace cannot be achieved without the active participation of the Soviet Union. Later Algerian President Boumediene may also make a pilgrimage.

After the pilgrimage season the Arabs might find themselves asking the question: Has the Middle East problem been transformed into an issue of Soviet participation or nonparticipation.

The important thing is that Yasir 'Arafat will not go to Moscow to get inspiration because they have all already been inspired by the Moscovites. 'Arafat will go to assure the loyalty of the rejectionists to the Moscovites. He will return from his visit to make 20 statements praising the Soviet stand in support of Palestinian rights because the Soviet Union is the enemy of imperialism, Zionism, liquidationism, defeatism and the solutions of capitulation all over the world. He will reiterate that peace cannot be realized in the region without the participation of the Soviet Union.

Some poor and wretched Palestinians inside the occupied territories might imagine that the Soviet Union has agreed to throw Israel into the sea and will also take part in this operation and also in liberating all of the Palestinian soil as demanded by certain PLO pillars who fight Israel from a distance of 1,000 miles to the east.

After these statements, the Palestinian brothers will find themselves facing the plain facts and will find that the PLO lackeys ['utullat al-munazzamah] cannot make any moves. They will also find themselves facing a question which has persisted since the brilliant initiative of As-Sadat, namely, what exactly do these lackeys who have imposed themselves on us want? The attitude of Egypt and As-Sadat is very clear and cannot be doubted or argued. It is the withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied in 1976 and restoring the right of the Palestinian people to determine their destiny in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

What exactly is the attitude of the PLO and its lackeys? What is the attitude of the rejectionists headed by the lion of Tishrin? The foreign minister of the lion of Tishrin, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, stated a few days ago that Ba'thist Syria will not renounce its stand on Israeli withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967 and the rights of the Palestinian people. The Moscovites have also stated that they will always support the Arabs in their cause and will not change their attitude toward this cause, which is represented by the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in 1967 and the rights of the Palestinian people. The Arab and Palestinian brothers will ask themselves what is the difference between such statements and the stand of Egypt and As-Sadat?

There is no difference, then, between the attitudes. Everybody favors Israeli withdrawl from the territories occupied in 1967 and everybody wants the right of the Palestinian people to establish their state in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Why, then, do the rejectionists reject and what do they reject, and why do 'Arafat and the lackeys of the PLO reject?

The Ba'thists are terrified that a solution will be achieved due to an initiative by Egypt. Therefore, they hold on to the sleeves of the Moscovites so as to have a role, any role. The lackeys of the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization do not want Tall az-Za'tar to be repeated and therefore they will be against Egypt and As-Sadat as long as their Ba'thist masters are against Egypt. The attitude of the rest of the group is known. Let us wait for the end of the pilgrimage season to Moscow to hear what Abu 'Ammar, alias Yasir 'Arafat, has to say. Remember then what the lion of Tishrin said before him.

OPPOSITION PAPER DEFENDS PALESTINIAN CAUSE

LD040022Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Palestine Is an Egyptian Problem"]

[Text] It was not a coincidence that in the sixties the Egyptian people, out of their sense of patriotic and national responsibility, embraced the contemporary Palestinian revolution and its liberation organization as a comrade of struggle and of arms in one common battle of destiny on which there is no going back.

The liberation of Palestine, objectively, is the other aspect of liberating Egypt and safeguarding its security as well as an essential condition for its progress. Consequently, the Palestinian problem is a genuine Egyptian problem both in tactics and strategy.

Pure Egyptian interest as well as national responsibility make it incumbent upon all the nationalist and progressive forces in our country to join forces in order to confront the voices that are fanning the campaign against the Palestinian people and their revolution represented in the PLO, since never in history has a people turned against its interests, security and future.

The assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i is an ugly crime that has opened emotional wounds. But it is no lesser crime to exploit it in arousing the Egyptian people against the Palestinian people, their revolution and the PLO under the pretext that the killers are Palestinians.

The danger in this fabricated pretext lies in trying to create a sick and hysterical atmosphere through which the present differences of opinions and attitudes between the Egyptian Government and the PLO leadership are turned into an Egyptian-Palestinian conflict that would overshadow the fundamental Arab-Israeli conflict.

Most of these voices emanate either from a narrow regional outlook or from interests linked with imperialist monopolies. These voices play the same traditional tune played by Israel, and they never tire of accusing the Palestinian people's revolution of terror and of slandering the leaders of fedayeen of the PLO who fall martyrs while fighting Israel's occupation and its racism. These voices also agree with Menahem Begin, the butcher of Dayr Yasin, who describes the PLO as a gang of murderers trying to establish a criminal den to be called the independent Palestinian state, which will be a deadly gun aimed at Israel and the Arab countries. Consequently, according to these voices, there is a common interest between the Arabs and Israel to cooperate in liquidating the cause of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

The rabid campaign could lead to a national tragedy to all because events of ancient and modern history confirm that Egyptian security is organically linked to Palestinian security and that most of the colonialist invasions against Egypt came after Palestine had first been invaded and occupied.

The difficulties and backwardness from which we suffer today basically stem from Zionist colonization of Palestine and from building a military base--which is Israel--that launches aggression against Egypt periodically every 6 or 10 years in order to halt the progress of the Egyptian people and to kill their interaction with all the Arabs for the purpose of creating a united and progressive major power that would determine the future of the area. Weakening and impoverishing Egypt and even containing it is, in the consensus of all the doves and hawks, the first guarantee and the most important mainstay of Israeli security. This is because, as Ben-Gurion said from the beginning, there is no room in the area for two major powers. Out of loyalty to Egypt and the Arab nation and for the sake of a free, secure, and progressive future for all the Arabs, the only substitute for the PLO in arena of military and political struggle is the PLO itself.

MILITARY COURT BEGINS TRIAL OF COMMUNISTS

NC0418O1Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Supreme Military Court today began trying those accused of belonging to communist organizations. Our correspondent Ahmad Badawi reports: [begin recording]

The Supreme Military Court today held its first session to try 16 persons accused of belonging to two secret organizations--the Egyptian Communist Workers Party and the Egyptian Communist Party. At the outset of the session the president of the court delivered the indictment. The court heard the defense plea on the invalidity of the republican decision committing the accused to the military court. The defense asked for an adjournment of the hearing in order to acquaint itself with the files and papers on the case, the military prosecution asked that the accused remain in prison. At the request of the defense, the court decided to adjourn the hearing until 13 March. The court also asked the military prosecution to notify the prosecution witnesses in the case.

The accused were arrested by the state security intelligence on 16 January on a charge of organizing and operating two secret organizations to overthrow the system of government in the country. Then a republican decision was issued committing the accused to the military judiciary. The accused were investigated by the military prosecution, which issued a bill of indictment that the accused aimed at overthrowing the legitimate ruling authorities in the country. [end recording]

ROMANIAN, IRAQI ECONOMIC TALKS CONDUCTED IN BAGHDAD

AU041527Y Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 4 Mar 78 AU

[Text] The Romanian economic delegation led by Deputy Minister of Forestry Economy and Construction Materials Gheorghe Lazar, which is visiting Iraq at the invitation of that country's minister of trade, has conducted talks in Baghdad with Iraqi officials to expand trade exchange and bilateral economic cooperation.

The head of the Romanian delegation was received by Hasan 'Ali al-Amiri, Iraqi minister of trade, with whom he discussed opportunities to increase and diversify Romanian exports to Iraq, and industrial cooperation ventures. The delegation also had talks with the minister of transportation and agriculture, with representatives of the leaderships of the ministries of industry and public works, as well as with representatives of the Iraqi National Oil Company. The discussions stressed the common desire to develop bilateral economic cooperation in various fields of activity.

Visit Concludes

JN031839Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 March--Gheorghe Lazar, Romanian deputy minister of forestry economy and construction materials, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a visit of several days to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Lazar had talks with Iraqi officials on the means to develop cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural, trade and transport spheres. Lazar also got acquainted with various aspects of development in Iraq.

ATH-THAWRAH ATTACKS TRIPOLI, ALGIERS SUMMITS

JN050915Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH published here today says that the lack of clear vision in defining geniune stands and reliance on conciliatory formulas by certain Arab sides opposing the capitulatory settlement have contributed to the spread of confusion among the Arab masses.

Under the title "The Other Face of the Current Arab Situation," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says in an article published today: Proceeding from the principle of truthfulness and frankness, we must admit that the results of the Tripoli and Algiers conferences have revealed a blatant inability to see the proper way of national confrontation. Certain sides, which are regarded as part of the Arab national forces, have insisted on upholding the settlement line. There was also no commitment to a serious and effective working program to cope with the symptoms of decline, deterioration and treason in the current Arab situation.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The task of all the Arab patriotic forces and regimes at the current phase is not only to condemn and confront As-Sadat's traitorous step and all its results, but the no less significant task of coping with the "other line" of the settlement conspiracy. This "other line" is being disguised behind general, peripheral and formal concepts, and this is what differentiates it from the "first line." The "other line" is also based on insistence on proceeding to implement the "settlement" conspiracy.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: What is the use of certain patriotic Arab sides continuing the self-deception and delusion that they can enlist the participation of the Syrian regime in implementing a joint struggle program? The Syrian regime has not concealed its stand, but has declared it frankly in the Tripoli conference and in the Algiers conference. This stand is based on "working for the settlement and for Geneva, and recognition that Israel has become a fait accompli which must be recognized." The Syrian line is also based on "belief in and dependence on the American role to regain what can be regained of the occupied Syrian lands in return for giving sufficient guarantees to the Zionist entity and recognizing secure borders for it."

The paper asks: Do we want to liberate our lands without conceding our just and legitimate reights and without recognizing the usurping aggressive presence of the Zionist entity? The settlement plans are diametrically opposed to this stand.

The paper explains: Someone might say that the current Arab and international circumstances dictate that we employ flexible tactics instead of asking for the impossible and demanding impossible solutions. But what tactics do they mean? Shall we sit with the Zionist entity at the negotiating table and agree that it will withdraw from Arab lands it occupied in the 5 June 1967 aggression? And what shall the enemy ask us in return for this withdrawal? Recognition, secure borders and international guarantees.

The paper adds: This is the result of the flexible tactics which they are talking about. Why then do they "blame" As-Sadat for going to the Knesset and negotiating with the leaders of the Zionist entity as long as the results will be the same?

The paper asks: What kind of an impossible situation are they talking about when we call on the Arab nation and its forces and regimes to prepare for struggle to liberate our lands? Is this an innovation or is it the tradition of people's struggle throughout the ages?

The paper continues: The road is clear. Let us all rise to the level of the crucial challenge. Let us be truthful to ourselves and to the masses of our nation. The urgent issue facing all the Arab forces truly believing in liberation is the extent of this nation's ability to employ a comprehensive struggle program and, mobilizing its manpower and material resources, to confront the crucial challenge clearly and with profound appreciation of the historic process. The task also includes the containment of the symptoms of treason, reneging and indulgence in implementing the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary design.

SYRIA BANS PASSAGE OF IRAQI MAIL THROUGH ITS TERRITORY

JN051323Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 March--A responsible source stated here today that the Syrian regime recently banned the passage through Syria of mail from Europe to Iraq, countries of the Arab Gulf and Southeast Asia.

The responsible source at the postal, telegraph and telecommunications establishment added that this Syrian measure violates all international and Arab postal agreements and all protocols appended to them. These agreements stipulate the observance of the right of international passage of mail by all countries. The Syrian measure caused 15,000 postal bags to be stockpiled at the Syrian-Turkish borders. He added that the Iraqi postal authorities have adopted swift measures to foil the steps of the Syrian regime, by contacting the Turkish postal authorities to coordinate the settlement of this problem. The responsible source said that an overland bridge has been installed to dispatch the stockpiled mail at the Syrian-Turkish borders to its destination in the Arab Gulf countries and Southeast Asia, in view of Iraq's position as a center of international postal traffic.

ATHERTON ARRIVES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS

Arrives 3 Mar

JN031806Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] U.S. Envoy Alfred Atherton today arrived in Amman for discussions with Jordanian officials on the developments in the Middle East situation.

Received by King Husayn

JN041554Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 March--His Majesty King Husayn has stressed that establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East depends on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and the guaranteeing of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future. He said this during his meeting today with Alfred Atherton, U.S. envoy to the Middle East. The U.S. envoy reviewed for King Husayn the U.S. political efforts to find a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and the efforts he is making to achieve this aim. The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the royal Hashemite Court and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Received by Prime Minister

JN051247Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mudar Badran this morning received U.S. Envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton. Mr Atherton explained to the prime minister the results of the contacts he has so far made in the context of his mission to reach a declaration of principles, which will be a basis for negotiations aimed at achieving an overall settlement, taking into consideration all aspects of the Middle East crisis.

The prime minister explained the Jordanian stand toward the current negotiations, confirming the firm stand toward the various aspects of the crisis, especially Jordan's insistence on the need for an Israeli commitment to complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. Badran stressed that Jordan is in favor of the peaceful efforts aimed at a comprehensive solution with the participation of all concerned parties. The prime minister also pointed out the negative results incurred by the intransigent Israeli stand toward the two central problems of the Middle East; namely, the total Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Spokesman Holds Press Conference

JN041950Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] George Sherman, spokesman for U.S. Envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton, held a press conferencein the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel at 1800 today. He spoke about the results of Alfred Atherton's meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and with a number of Jordanian officials during his visit to Amman.

In reply to a question from a JNA correspondent on Israel's intransigent stand toward a peaceful settlement to the Middle East issue and the possibility of the United States exerting strong pressure on Israel, Sherman said: I believe that President Carter has demonstrated more than once the U.S. determination and commitment to help in all possible ways to achieve a negotiated settlement in the Middle East. During his latest talks with President as-Sadat in Washington, President Carter stressed that the United States will double its efforts to achieve this aim. Sherman said: Our urgent aim at present is to help the parties reach a declaration of principles. This declaration will constitute a framework for negotiations to achieve the overall settlement sought by the two parties. It is necessary for all the parties to participate in the negotiations to achieve such a settlement. Sherman further said: It is obvious that a settlement in the Middle East must be based on a compromise solution. The United States is making efforts to help the parties concerned achieve this solution. Sherman said: If there is pressure in this regard, it already exists in the present situation because the two sides are making efforts to achieve the compromise solution necessary to an overall settlement. In reply to another question by the JNA correspondent on the possibility of resuming direct negotiations among the parties concerned in the near future, Sherman said: We cannot now foretell when the direct negotiations can be resumed. However, the U.S. stand has always been based on achieving a settlement through negotiations among the parties concerned.

Departs 5 Mar

JN051920Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] U.S. Envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo this evening within the context of his endeavors aimed at bringing the stands of the Egyptian and Israeli sides closer and at resuming the peace negotiations between them. Atherton left Amman this afternoon following a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Atherton's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and the prime minister dealt with all the aspects of the Middle East crisis and the efforts being exerted to find a peaceful settlement in the area.

AR-RA'Y Comments on Visit

JN040650Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Change Is Necessary," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, has come to Amman knowing that Jordan is not ready to join the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in light of current circumstances. Atherton has come to Amman--after visiting Egypt and Israel several times in an attempt to find a joint formula for a declaration of principles of a settlement--knowing that Israel's talk about a declaration of principles is part of a campaign of misleading and deception aimed at gaining time. The paper adds: Despite all this, Atherton returned to the area and visited Egypt, Jordan and Israel, knowing full well that the desired declaration of principles was contained in the UN resolutions. The problem, however, is that Israel refuses to adhere to these resolutions. When Atherton is briefed on the Jordanian stand--and we believe that he has already been informed of the details of this stand and the difficulty of Jordan's participating in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations--he will undoubtedly realize that Israel's refusal to submit to the requisites of peace is the sole obstacle to the achievement of any progress toward a just and lasting peace in the area.

NEW SECURITY ARRANGEMENT REPORTEDLY TO BE MADE

NC0607552 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Calm was restored last night in the areas of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah. Mechanized patrols manned by the deterrent forces and the internal security forces have started patrols along the borders of both areas.

Stringent measures have been adopted to prevent any clashes. These patrols are operating all along the old Sidon road along the line dividing 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah. Units of the deterrent forces have been stationed in each of the areas of confrontation. The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that a new arrangement will soon be made concerning the distribution and activities of the Arab deterrent forces. This arrangement will be based on a studied security plan which could contribute to maintaining security and which would involve the active participation of the Internal Security Forces. This plan calls for the establishment of observation posts manned by the deterrent forces along the main roads and axis in the capital. These posts will be at the disposal of the Internal Security Forces when necessary. Under this plan the Lebanese forces will set up roadblocks in order to inspect cars and pedestrians and will immediately begin applying the law to everybody.

As for the areas outside of Beirut, the number of roadblocks manned by the deterrent forces will be reduced, while the observation posts manned by these forces will be reinforced to assist mobile patrols of the Internal Security Forces, watch the roads and maintain security. The Voice of Lebanon correspondent adds that the above-mentioned security plan is now in the process of implementation and that it will be made public in the near future.

DETERRENT FORCES MAKE STATEMENT ON REDEPLOYMENT

NC0312412 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[3 March statement issued by the Arab deterrent forces command]

[Text] The command of the Arab deterrent forces announced that some of its formations (tashkilat) in the township and suburbs of Beirut have made some moves today and will make more moves tomorrow. These moves come within the framework of changing around some of its units and redeploying them in a manner that would insure the defense of their positions and increase their effectiveness in maintaining security and in supporting the Internal Security Forces in their daily security tasks.

AL-KHATIB, BUTRUS ON DETERRENT FORCES STATEMENT

NC0322377 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source at the Arab deterrent forces command stated the following this evening: Regarding the Arab deterrent forces command's statement issued on Friday, the national news agency correspondent asked Col Sami al-Khatib, the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, to clarify the statement and what is being reiterated in some circles about the moves made. Colonel al-Khatib said: I have nothing to add to the statement, which explains the nature of the measures and moves.

On this occasion I would like to point out that the Arab deterrent forces command, in coordination with the Internal Security Forces command, has been engaged for some time in the preparation of a military and security plan which would lead to reducing the roadblocks of the Arab deterrent forces and to confining these forces to military supervision aimed at insuring the safety of the highways and at preventing armed manifestations throughout the country. This would mean that the internal security forces would assume daily security duties such as searching for and hunting down criminals in a more comprehensive manner. I hope this will be done as soon as possible. Foreign Affairs and Defense Minister Fuyad Butrus was asked last night about the statement issued by the Arab deterrent forces. He answered: I have seen the statement of the Arab deterrent forces and I contacted these forces. I can confirm that the measures which have been adopted are within the framework of a routine regrouping of the forces which is not divorced from the precautionary security aims of these forces. Moreover, several places and positions have been vacated by the deterrent forces as a result of this grouping operation. Any other interpretation does not conform to the facts.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR

JN031117Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 March--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis received here today Ali ash-Sha'ir, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon. Ash-Sha'ir stated that his meeting with the Lebanese president comes prior to his own departure for Riyadh tomorrow to discuss and review several Lebanese issues with officials of his country.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

JN031437Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 March--Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus met here today with U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Richard Parker. Following the meeting Butrus declined to make any statement. The ambassador, however, stated that he discussed with Butrus the various current issues. The ambassador pointed out that his country has not yet made a decision regarding U.S. economic aid to Lebanon during 1978. It is worth mentioning that today's meeting is the second within the past 48 hours.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI TO BECOME WEEKLY IN APRIL

NC031155Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 3 March--The Lebanese newspaper AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI has announced that it will cease publication as of tomorrow and will reappear in April in the form of a weekly magazine. In an editorial today the pro-Libyan daily says it has decided to become an 84-page magazine because it has become impossible to carry out the national duty in the current stage through news information methods.

PSP LEADER JUNBLATT TO VISIT U.S. AT END OF MARCH

JN060806Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 March--It was announced here today that Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], will visit the United States at the end of March. PSP sources said that the visit comes in response to an official invitation Junblatt received recently.

AL-ASAD JUSTIFIES SYRIA'S INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

JN051805Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Delegations from the provinces of Dayr az-Zawr and Al-Hasakah today congratulated President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection as president of the republic. President Hafiz al-Asad thanked the delegations of the provinces of Dayr az-Zawr and Al-Hasakah for their enthusiasm, feelings and trust. He said: All this has given me happiness and the desire to shoulder the big responsibility resulting from the people's confidence. This has also given me feelings of strength because the strength of the president of any state emanates from the people's strength and from the rallying of these people around their leaders. So long as affection continues to be our guide and so long as we are working as one group, we will overcome all difficulties and achieve progress in all domains--depending on the availability of resources--until we achieve our objectives.

The president said: I am one of you. Since you have placed me in the forefront with your own will, I do not differentiate between one citizen and another except by the extent of his love for his nation and his service to the homeland. The president said that as a result of Syria's fraternal stand to save Lebanon, Syria was exposed to oppressive campaigns from several quarters. He said: Syria, out of its feelings of brotherhood and pan-Arab duty, continued to help Lebanon until we save it from a destructive ordeal. Had it not been for Syria's fraternal intervention, destruction would have spread to other areas.

President al-Asad said: We are pleased that we have sacrificed and have borne the shock for the sake of saving Lebanon. All campaigns against Syria have failed, thanks to the vigilance and sound perception of our people. All attempts to tire us failed to have any effect. We faced every crisis and emerged stronger than before. We will not be defeatists like others because defeatists are weak and we are not weak. We tell our brothers that strong Syria is beneficial to itself and to its Arab nation. We extend our hands to them for sincere work. We are strong in Syria; we are strong through our national unity. So long as there is strong national unity--unity we sensed during the plebiscite--we will not be afraid and we will firmly continue our march. We may face some difficulties, but we will not be defeated.

AL-ASAD: SYRIA TO CONTINUE ITS POLICIES

JN042048Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Delegations from the governorates of Idlib and Ar-Raqqah today congratulated the president on his unanimous reelection as president of the republic. The president thanked the delegations and reiterated his pride in their dear trust and their sincere feelings. The president said: Our national unity which clearly manifested itself during the referendum is our greatest asset in overcoming all the difficulties facing us. The president emphasized the importance of Arab unity and our insistance on working to that end. The president said: Nothing will deter us from working toward Arab unity; we will continue our struggle for Arab unity regardless of any stand taken by any state.

The president spoke about Syria's principled stands on its basic and historic role in safeguarding Arab solidarity. The president added that today Syria is making sacrifices and strengthening Arab determination so as to serve the entire Arab nation.

Such was its attitude during the October war and the war of attrition and in all the political battles during which many foreign powers tried to place Syria in a critical position.

The president said: At this juncture Syria continues its role of stopping the collapse of the Arab nation and taking a sound position which does not emanate from rash reactions, but from firm and principled stands. The president made it clear that we want peace, but it must be based on justice and on the complete withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It is only natural, the president added, that a just peace is one thing and capitulation is something different.

The president said that a strong Syria is beneficial to itself and to its brothers despite the fact that some of these brothers do not understand this truth. We are sorry to say that some of our brothers at times attack us, but our people are able to distinguish right from wrong and good from evil. Our joint responsibility in Syria is to continue our policies regardless of the difficulties. We will remain determined to make unlimited sacrifices and to safeguard our values. Victory will be ours. The president asked the delegations to convey his greetings to every citizen in the governorates of Idlib and Ar-Raqqah.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DELIVERS MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV

JN051135Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yuriy Chernyakov, Soviet ambassador in Damascus, who delivered a message to President al-Asad from Leonid Brezhnev, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and CPSU general secretary.

PDRY MINISTER OF TRADE ARRIVES ON SHORT VISIT

JN051328Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 5 March--Mahmud Sa'id Madhi, PDRY minister of trade and supply, accompanied by several officials from the trade ministry and two trading firms, arrived in Damascus from Aden today on a 1-day visit to Syria. In a statement to the SANA correspondent, the PDRY minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria and said: The aim of this short visit is to hold meetings with Syrian officials to develop and consolidate the economic and commercial relations between the two fraternal countries.

ARMY DELEGATION MEETS WITH HUNGARIAN MILITARY

JN041722Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Official talks begin in Budapest today between Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him and the Hungarian chief of staff and the military delegation accompanying him. In a speech at a banquet yesterday in honor of the Syrian delegation, the Hungarian chief of staff affirmed the friendship between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Hungarian Republic. He praised the stand of Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad in opposing the imperialist plots in the region aimed at imposing solutions of surrender on the Arabs, particularly after the recent steps of the Egyptian president.

In reply Major General ash-Shihabi thanked the Hungarian military officials for the cordial reception accorded the Syrian delegation and praised the strong relations between the two peoples and the two armies in their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

It will be recalled that the Syrian military delegation arrived in Budapest from Moscow after a similar visit to the Soviet Union.

ENVOY RETURNS AFTER VISIT TO LIBYA, ALGERIA

JN051748Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus this afternoon after conveying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

ENVOY TO ARAB GULF COUNTRIES RETURNS TO DAMASCUS

JN031950Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, political adviser to President Hafiz al-Asad, returned to Damascus today after delivering messages from Al-Asad to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, their highnesses the amirs of Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain and the UAE president.

SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO PAY 2-WEEK VISIT

JN051448Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 5 March--A Soviet delegation from the permanent Syrian-Soviet Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation led by Vladimir Mordivincv, deputy chief of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations at the Soviet Council of Ministers, will arrive in Damascus tomorrow.

During its 2-week visit to Syria, the delegation will hold talks with the Syrian side in the permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries as well as on the means to consolidate and develop this cooperation.

PLANS FOR ROMANIAN PREMIER'S VISIT REPORTED

JN040506Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At the invitation of Prime Minister and Mrs 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, Romanian prime minister and Mrs Manea Manescu will pay an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in the second 10 days of this month.

LIBYA

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES U.S. ARMS POLICY

LD041330Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] An official Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah spokesman, commenting on the decision of the American Government to ban the sale of spares for the C-130 military aircraft and the sale of the commercial Boeing airliners to the Jamahiriyah, said: The American policy as far as the Jamahiriyah is concerned has lost its self-respect because it has been proved to us that there is no such thing as a rational American policy, but an American [word indistinct] policy. Furthermore the American policy cannot be anything but the product of a community of capitalist exploitation, the community of slaves and of Jewish hatred of Semitism [as heard], Islam and Arabs. The American ruling group has allied itself with Judaism against Islam. For these reasons American policy has always been unrepresentative of the interests of the Americans as confirmed by the dictation of its attitude against the wishes of the American people, an attitude which does not express the view of the American citizen whom we have seen and with whom we are familiar, whether as a student, a congressman, an intellectual or a farmworkers. The Jamahiriyah has good relations with the various groups of the American people with whom we have been able to maintain contacts and a dialog, something which has resulted in good popular relations with us because they became convinced of the soundness of the attitude and policy of the Jamahiriyah and the justice of the causes it supports.

We declare our regret that the policy of a big power should be so childish and that it proclaims its stances to the international community without these stances being based on proper knowledge or on dialog with the side concerned. The step taken by the American Government toward the Jamahiriyah and the steps it takes against the small nations are liable to make these nations hostile to the United States and line up with the enemies of the United States. This is the outcome of the foolish American policy. The American Government declared that its decisions were taken owing to the Jamahiriyah's attitude in obstructing a settlement to the Middle East problem and to what it called the question of international terrorism. We consider that this reasoning is completely false. Even if for argument's sake we assumed it were true, the American Government is not the policeman of the world. Every state is free to exercise its policy.

The official spokesman concluded his statement by saying that the American decisions cannot make us cease supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people until victory. Indeed the Jamahiriyah will continue supporting this struggle against the Zionists and the enemies of Semitism and Islam. As to the reference in the American decision to international terrorism, we know the sort of terrorism which America means. It considers that anyone who stands on the side of the oppressed peoples and anyone who supports the questions of liberation, justice and peace is a terrorist.

SPOKESMAN TELLS CARTER TO KEEP OUT OF AFRICA

LD051625Y Tripoli JANA in English 1517 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 5, JANA--Following President Carter's statement about the situation in the Horn of Africa, an official spokesman in the Jamahiriyah had this to say: Africa doesn't need American advice and if Carter has any wisdom he should use it to solve his internal problems and to face the strikes, racism and the deteriorating value of the dollar.

The spokesman went on to say that if advice is inevitable, then we should advise America not to interfere in African problems and to take its hands off Africa. America ought to know that the Jamahiriyah and other African states are on their way to resolve the conflict between the two African neighbors. The spokesman added that America complicates any problem in which it interferes.

Finally the spokesman accused the United States of deepening the differences between the African brothers and of continually trying to stop them from solving their own problems. The African Continent realized the destructive role of America and wouldn't allow Carter or anyone else to destroy the African efforts to solve the problem in the Horn of Africa.

TRIPOLI VOAH: LIBYA SUITABLE FOR MEDIATING IN HORN

LD0401201 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The conflict raging in the Horn of Africa cannot be isolated from what is happening in the Arab region, especially from matters concerning the Israeli-Arab conflict, Arab oil or international interests in this region in general. All world press and news agencies as well as politicians have spoken on what is happening in this region situated in the Arab geographical confines, which overlook the Arab Red Sea and oil tankers coming from the Arab Gulf, and joins our geographical borders in the northeastern part of Africa.

In the conflict raging in the Horn of Africa all Arab and international forces take part, directly or indirectly. On this conflict and for its sake lengthy meetings have been held, heads of state have made many statements and the conflict continues to attract the attention of all. No day passes without reference to it or its parties. There are many differing attitudes to this conflict. Yet what is definite is that it is part of the existing international scene. As a start the Africanization of the conflict is the required solution to the problem.

However, what do we mean by the Africanization of the conflict? What we mean is the cutting off of non-African connections with the Somali-Ethiopian conflict, bringing back the conflict from its international state in which it is now to its African state. When the conflict is once again African it will be possible for its directly involved African parties to take charge of it; in other words there must be direct Somali-Ethiopian talks. Should both parties find it impossible to hold such bilateral contacts, the other African sides must intervene to encourage and assist the concerned parties to reach agreement between them.

Then there is the OAU and it is qualified for such matters at the level of African relations. Should the OAU find it impossible to proceed along this road due to the intervention of many parties in the conflict, there must be a search for an African side acceptable to both parties to the conflict in the Horn of Africa. The question now is: Who is the suitable and required African side to play such an urgent role at the African level?

Before we answer this question, we must ask what are the qualifications and conditions of this African side which is capable of playing the suitable peaceful role between Somalia and Ethiopia?

First, this side should be a friend to the warring parties or acceptable to them and the record of this side should be honorable at the level of impartiality and resolution and readiness to shoulder responsibility. This African side should be capable of withstanding the various partial or emotional influences. This side should have a visualization or a strategy from which it derives its attitudes, obligations and its definitions of things, events and stands. Moreover, this African side should have previous experience proving its ability and resolution and also its successes at the level of problems, conflicts and disputes at the African level.

In light of this we say that several Arab, African and international sides have tried to face this task or role but have failed and have achieved no results. In light of this we say that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Republic is the required and suitable African side to play this role at the level of the conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Why Libya in particular? Because of Libya's excellent relations with all parties and its awareness of all the developments and details of the conflict. It is the only African state from which and by its efforts there emerged clear and definite solutions of some African problems in Sudan, Chad and Tunisia. What is more, its Arab and international relations make it a side acceptable to all because of the boldness, sincerity, spirit of initiative and ability to meet its obligations that characterize it. It is also the African country which possesses definite and strategic visualizations in relation to the current problem of Africa.

Thus, observers were not surprised by the visit of Mohamed Siad Barre, president of Somalia, to Libya, a visit that cannot be detached from the background of the conflict in the Horn of Africa. In addition, during this visit several questions were submitted about the role that the Jamahiriyah can play, a role which could be successful. However, the conflict in the Horn of Africa is of that type in which many things and factors are involved, thus making it difficult to deal with from any angle. Those who are asking the Jamahiriyah to play the required role at this level, a role whose features were defined in the speeches of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, at the African meetings which were held recently in the Jamahiriyah, and they are political African lines which gained the unanimous support of the Africans. [sentence as heard]

The one who succeeds here and there is capable of succeeding here also. Therefore, observers now ask: What will happen after the visit of Siad to the Jamahiriyah and when will peace be achieved between Ethiopia and Somalia and when will the suitable African side move to play its role to achieve the desired peace between Somalia and Ethiopia? Finally we say: This will not be achieved unless the way of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, in solving African conflicts is implemented either by the two concerned sides or with the participation of other African sides and in light of the precedents which have solved many African problems.

JANA ATTACKS EGYPT'S 'LIES AGAINST JAMAHIRIYAH'

LD031522Y Tripoli JANA in English 1336 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

["Egyptian Allegations Refuted"--JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, March 3 JANA--The isolation of the As-Sadat regime on both the Arab and international fronts has driven it to make the wildest unfounded lies against the Jamahiriyah in an attempt to distract attention from its failures at home and on the international scene.

As a part of this basic campaign to smear the Jamahiriyah, the Egyptian intelligence has tried to claim that the head of the Jamahiriyah intelligence has been arrested. These false allegation were passed to the Lebanese weekly AS-SAYAD, which has published them in its latest issue. In the Egyptian regime's typically bungling way, they even contrived to give a name to the alleged head of Jamahiriyah intelligence, a name completely unknown in the Jamahiriyah. It is clear that there are no arrests nor assassination attempts in the Jamahiriyah.

The only wonder is why should a weekly like AS-SAYAD publish such utter nonsense. It is clear beyond doubt that the Egyptian dirty tricks department is behind this 'plant,' as only the Egyptian regime will benefit from such allegations. Apart from these clear indications there are a few points which link the story to Egyptian intelligence, the most important of which is the fact that this hilariously incredible lie was leaked to a number of news agencies before the appearance of the story in AS-SAYAD. Thus the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE [AFR] put the story out and the Zionist entity's radio station carried the allegation in its early morning broadcast yesterday well before the publication of AS-SAYAD.

This must establish the work of intelligence forces at the behest of the Egyptian regime to attempt to divert the attention of the Egyptian people from the real problems facing the masses. The Jamahiriyah, who has in the past foiled all the As-Sadat plots and conspiracies, especially the armed attacks against the eastern part of the Jamahiriyah, will be able to defeat all plots directed against it.

The only regrets in this whole allegation is the fact that AS-SAYAD seems to have fallen prey to the wiles of the Egyptian 'dirty tricks' department by publishing this totally unfounded story.

FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH SED'S LAMBERZ

LD061054Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, met with Werner Lamberz, SED Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, yesterday evening at the headquarters of the foreign secretariat.

The JANA correspondent has learned that during this meeting aspects of cooperation and means of strengthening bilateral relations to achieve the aims of the two friendly peoples were discussed at the meeting.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN COMMENTS ON SAHARA, SHABA, AS-SADAT

LD031426Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II of Morocco on the 17th anniversary of his accession to the throne--live]

[Excerpts] Since the problem between Morocco and Mauritania on one side and Algeria on the other, and matters relating to it, resulted in the decision to hold a summit meeting by the OAU for the purpose of ending the tension in the region and to restore peace and security to it, we would like to indicate that we desire the holding of this conference and are ready to express in it our viewpoint-supported by proof and evidence--that we are adhering to a clear and legitimate right.

The conference will find us ready to (?dispel) confusion and determined to underline what is right and to invalidate what is wrong. In all this our desire is to restore peace to the region on the basis of recognizing our inalienable rights which we cannot give up in part or whole.

However, we will continue to give the Sahara the same attention as we do other parts of our national territory. We have already informed you, dear people, of the shale deposits with which our country is endowed. We are happy to tell you today that the studies on the extraction of oil from these shale deposits have been reassuring. You will be most pleasantly surprised by the prospect of the great wealth these shale deposits will yield to our country. We are also happy to inform you that studies are continuing regarding the extraction of uranium from phosphate.

Foremost of the important events witnessed in the past year was the aggression against the friendly state of Zaire which tried to effect the secession of Shaba from the national territory of Zaire. When President Mobutu sought the help of his friends, we responded by supporting him, inspired by the ties of friendship and affection between us and the president and his people and by our feeling that aggression, if it succeeded in rending the unity of Zaire, would soon threaten the neighbors of this country. We sent an expeditionary unit from our royal armed forces to take part with the Zairian forces in repulsing the aggression and to reestablish security and stability. God willed victory for our expeditionary force, and the battle we engaged in in support of justice and right reached the desired end, the safeguarding of the unity of Zaire and the restoration of peace and security to its territory after aggression had nearly achieved its objectives.

At the end of last year an event took place which attracted attention and evoked admiration and appreciation on which the hopes of peace-loving peoples were pinned, looking forward to the restoration of security once and for all in the Middle East region. It was the initiative taken by our great friend and brother President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. He declared his intention to visit Jerusalem and to negotiate with the leaders of Israel to reach a solution which would put an end to the conflict between the Arabs and Israel which had lasted 30 years.

We at once gave him our support and encouragement in our firm belief that the aim of the initiative was not to defend Egyptian interests, but was more important and wide-ranging; namely, to find a solution with the Israelis on the basis of the resolutions and recommendations of the Arab summit in Rabat in 1974. But his initiative, though of great and rare courage which was recognized by the Western states and some Arab countries, was prejudged by other Arab states, which misconceived its motive and denounced and criticized it. However, the president went to Jerusalem and delivered his historical speech which lived up to the hopes pinned on it and the faith placed in it. From the occupied land he proclaimed to the world the demands of all the Arabs, stating their lawful rights and reasonable expectations without disregarding a single one of their aims and without being affected by the courtesy or attention he received.

He began to negotiate in an effort to convince his opponents of the need to achieve conciliation which would consolidate the basis of peace.

The negotiations continued after the president's return to Egypt, but Israel has not risen to the level of his lofty step and the negotiations have stumbled and the glow of hope has begun to dim owing to the hardening of Israel's position and its intransigence which is based on no justification which can be recognized or acknowledged. President as-Sadat's initiative will remain in the consciences of those who cherish sensible dreams and in enlightened minds a symbol for the will for peace and a slogan for the desire to replace hatred and conflict with conciliation and harmony.

In our recent visit to Spain and during our talks with our dear friend, His Majesty King Juan Carlos I, we began to work--though unofficially--for strengthening the ties of friendship with Spain, its king and its people. We also began to work toward consolidating the relations of cooperation between our two countries and to engender factors which would help to entrench for all times these relations on a firm basis in the interest of the two neighboring countries.

Dear people, you are aware that our regaining of the Sahara following the agreement with Spain on 14 November 1975 left no problems at all between us and our friendly neighbor. After overcoming the obstacle which stood in our path, we folded an old page and opened a new one which will contain a history which we believe will be full of every kind of cooperation, sincere friendship and firm accord. We were very pleased to note the identity of our readiness and the readiness of his majesty the king of Spain, of his hopes and ours, his feelings and ours.

DISAGREEMENT VOICED WITH SPANISH LEFT OVER CANARIES

LD021713Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 25 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "The Spanish Islands and the Moroccan Sahara"]

[Excerpts] We have already had occasion to discuss the Spanish Rock of Gibraltar and the Moroccan Sahara and we have recalled Morocco's stance with respect to Gibraltar. In fact, we have constantly supported Spain's claims to the rock; every time the opportunity has arisen, His Majesty Hassan II has never failed to reaffirm that support, and our representatives at the United Nations have always voted in favor of restoring the territory to the motherland.

Since its occupation by the British in 1704, Gibraltar has been regarded as a colony, and decolonization can mean nothing but restoration to the motherland, without either a referendum or self-determination.

Our stance is the same with respect to the Canary Archipelago, which we regard in the same way as an integral part of the Spanish nation.

In so doing Morocco remains consistent. In supporting the Spanish viewpoint it is merely reaffirming its respect for the territorial integrity of states, which is the basis of all stability. Because, if we were to seek to follow the demagogues in this field and if we had to give credit to the intrigues of an individual or a group motivated by subversive ideas, there would be no nation left in Africa, Europe or elsewhere. To promote agitation and subversion on this basis is an extremely dangerous plan. It is, moreover, clear interference in other people's affairs, and those who do so are acting irresponsibly.

But if Morocco is being consistent, the Spanish left, which is currently loudly denouncing the statements about the Canary Islands, is scarcely so. It is with satisfaction that we give it proof of its mistakes today. They who followed in the footsteps of the agitators of Algiers and their associates are glad today to find Morocco and Mauritania on their side, and we would like to hope that that left which has acted so unrealistically will realize that the problem with which the Canary Islands are confronted is the same as that which is posed in our Saharan provinces. You cannot defend Spanish sovereignty over Gibraltar and the Canary Islands and dispute Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara.

The Spanish Socialist Workers Party will undoubtedly have realized now where Spain's real friendsllie; it will also have become aware of where unnatural alliances, such as the one which it has concluded with the Algerian dictatorship, lead. It will also have realized--we hope--that what matters is not a vague ideological similarity but proximity, especially when it has been marked by centuries of coexistence and even cohabitation.

Past, present and future demand close and fruitful solidarity between the two countries. We are entirely devoted to this, but it is still necessary for everybody in Spain, whatever his views or ideology, to realize that Spain's sovereignty over Gibraltar and the Canary Islands can no more be disputed than that of Morocco over its Saharan provinces.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI URGES END TO SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA

NC031446Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] 'Amarat, 3 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has again announced Sudan's willingness to mediate and offer its good offices to put an end to the current conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and between Ethiopia and the Eritrean revolution through dialog and meetings between brothers.

In a speech he made today in the town of Ad-Damazin on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of unity in Sudan, President Numayri said that he was renewing this initiative because he is for peace, stability and national unity in Africa.

President Numayri said that the unity, progress and stability of the African people depends on the withdrawal of the alien forces (?from Africa and on putting an end to the bloodshed) and the waste of resources. The Sudanese president affirmed in his speech that there can be no (?peace) in the continent (?unless) there is an end to the Soviet presence in the African Continent and unless the Cuban Forces and their interfering lackeys actually withdraw.

Addressing the Soviet Union, its agents and its followers, President Numayri said that the interests of nations are not served by invasion and that peace cannot prevail in Africa while there is foreign presence in the continent and while there is conflict over and around the continent.

The Sudanese president reviewed the economic and social development steps and the projects already completed and to be carried out in the united Sudan and under the umbrella of the unity of the Sudanese people. The president attended the celebrations held in this town on the occasion and opened a number of installations.

DAYAN PROPOSES PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE PLAN

TA031946Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan proposes considering the possibility of carrying out unilaterally parts of Israel's peace plan regarding Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, even if no full and contractual peace is achieved between us and the inhabitants of the territories, in the event we arrive at a de facto peace with them. An additional condition is that Israel guarantee its basic national and security needs, so there will be no need for a military administration in those territories.

The foreign minister made the proposal at a closed meeting of the forum for social-political clarifications in Tel Aviv. The meeting dealt with the possible future ramifications if peace is achieved between Israel and its neighbors. Mr Dayan said that in his opinion we should make sure we clearly understand whether Israel's peace plan is likely to be realized even if no formal and full peace agreement is achieved with our neighbors immediately.

DAYAN'S MISLEADING EVALUATION OF EGYPTIAN MOVES CRITICIZED

TA031013Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[Dalya Shehori commentary]

[Text] It seems that the prime minister's personal authority, which was sufficient for establishing his leadership in Herut for decades, is not enough to maintain his control over his fellow members in the coalition. The Begin cabinet, which started out showing signs of internal unity and acceptance of big daddy's authority, is now revealing itself as a group of men with differing interests, each one of whom strives to reach his own goals and succeeds in achieving them according to the degree of dexterity, cunning and nerve he can demonstrate. All that within a little over 6 months. The government's resolution of last Sunday ("that it does not need to take new decisions") ultimately strengthens those who act as if the government were their own property, because there is nothing in that resolution to indicate a direction or message to the contrary. The minister of agriculture, Ari'el Sharon, might, indeed, find it difficult to establish dummy settlements on the plains of Sinai in light of the government's resolution, but he will be able to interpret the indefinite word "strengthening" of the approaches rather extensively.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who does not need government resolutions to play with words, will still be able to carry on and play with them even more easily, because there is no governmental policy founded on government resolutions to restrict his remarks.

The foreign minister controls information in his sphere almost exclusively (only few people in the Foreign Ministry actually know what is going on in foreign policy, and certain people outside the ministry do not know anything about it), and he uses the fact that he has no competitors either in the cabinet or in the public to become Israel's sole interpreter and policymaker.

Dayan's interpretation of Egypt's hardening was the only interpretation that was heard in Israel up to approximately the middle of this week. In his interpretation, however, Dayan never bothered to tell the Israeli citizen what in fact was the real reason for that hardening; he merely gave his own reasons as being the real ones. [paragraph continues]

He explained that Egypt was not willing to sign a separate agreement with Israel (from Cairo we hear exactly the opposite); that it is not the settlements which bother Egypt, but, rather, the Palestinian issue (in Cairo it is said that no agreement will be signed without Israel first withdrawing from the settlements, and that the Palestinian issue has yet to be discussed); that Egypt cannot tolerate its isolation from the rest of the Arab world, and therefore strives to get Jordan to join the negotiations (in Cairo they ask just who is the Arab world, inasmuch as the most important and decisive country, Saudi Arabia, supports Egypt); that in order to break the isolation, As-Sadat "moulded" [himself] in accordance with Husayn's positions, and that is the reason for the hardening on his part. So, King Husayn, who had all his life twisted and wriggled with great expertise between the chairs and under them in order to save his kingdom and his head, had become of late, thanks to Dayan, the policymaker for Egypt, the primary country in the Arab world.

These strange explanations would have remained with us had it not been for the real information which at long last unintentionally flowed in from U.S. sources around the middle of the week. The Egyptian hardening, it was found out, did not come to "get even" with anyone, but rather to react to the Israeli hardening which preceded it. Israel, it was discovered, began sounding in the ears of Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, at the start of his present shuttle tour in the area, a new interpretation of Resolution 242. The resolution, which talks about "withdrawing from territories," was now interpreted by the prime minister as permitting Israel to remain in Judaea and Samaria.

Perhaps the timing of the Israeli interpretation as passed to Atherton was a calculated move--timed a short while before the trip to the U.S. so that if As-Sadat hardens his position as the visit approaches in an attempt to pressure President Carter to pressure Begin, Begin will already have taken a strong position beforehand and would thus, like the fable of the rabbi and the goat, be able to make Carter very happy, when--on visiting him--he would return to the previously held positions.

Perhaps the timing of the Israeli interpretation of 242 was, however, not calculated to such an extent, and the reference is to a position which will, as of now, become the cornerstone of Israeli policy. Be that as it may, the hardening in Egypt's position was viewed as more reasonable and sensible in light of the hardening on the part of Israel and thus as more quieting. It was not an unmotivated Egyptian hardening--which could then only doubtfully have been stopped at some stage; rather, it was a controlled hardening--a reaction to the hardening by the other party retaining the option to continue the negotiations, if Israel so desired. This explanation of Egypt's position, incidentally, also fitted in with the reports from Cairo on the continuation of the Atherton talks in the second part of the week.

The story of "the Egyptian hardening," which blossomed against the background of the foreign minister's exclusive remarks on foreign affairs, should provide a lesson for the future, where in a state of lack of information, one should regard Dayan's explanations very cautiously, because they are never purposeless. Dayan does not want negotiations with the Arab countries because he does not believe that it is possible to reach peace agreements with them. What he does want, however, is to involve the United States in the contacts in the area ad nauseum, so that when the negotiations blow up, the United States will continue to support Israel, whether in a state of no peace-no war, or war.

This is the scenario Dayan had laid out before he became foreign minister, and it is according to this scenario Dayan had laid out before he became foreign minister, and it is according to this scenario that he is operating and thrusts the issues upon his audience to be aware of and to examine carefully any opinion and position which he expresses, especially when these come instead of information. [as published]

SINAI SETTLEMENTS NOT MENTIONED IN AS-SADAT LETTER

TA031026Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] In his letter to Prime Minister Begin, Egyptian President as-Sadat did not propose a meeting between the two to clarify misunderstandings and renew mutual trust, but the Egyptian step might clear the way for the renewal of personal contacts between the two leaders and for the advancement of a settlement.

The fact that, in his letter, As-Sadat did not repeat Egypt's demand that Israel evacuate its settlements in Qidmat Sinai [southeast of Rafah] has been interpreted as a conscious attempt not to go into points of dispute at this stage, but rather to emphasize the desire to continue the political momentum.

KNESSET COMMITTEE HEAD ARENS DISCUSSES U.S. VISIT

TA031809Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 3 Mar 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Chairman of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee Moshe Arens returned to Israel a few days ago from a publicity campaign in the United States. During his visit Professor Arens met with senators and congressmen, with media people and with Jewish groups. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar spoke with MK Arens on the current U.S. moods and attitudes toward Israel. [Begin recording]

[Question] Professor Arens, lack of trust, a credibility gap, a blackened reputation; these are the things we heard here during the last week or two regarding the view of Israel by the U.S. administration. You have just returned from there. Do you share those feelings?

[Answer] An effort has been made in the United States to present the Government of Israel as a government not to be trusted, which does not always tell the truth and which, at times, tries to use stratagems to achieve its goals. This is naturally damaging our image and, if we do not succeed in liquidating this incorrect image, it will certainly also damage the extent of support that is enjoyed by Israel.

[Question] You are saying: an effort is being made to blacken our name. Who is doing this?

[Answer] I would say that it is probably being done by the Arab lobby, to a certain extent by President as-Sadat during his visit in the United States, and possibly also by certain circles in the U.S. administration, which are trying to exert pressure on us, and here they think that perhaps they managed to get hold of an Achilles' heel through which influence could be exerted upon us.

[Question] Do you think that the Israeli Government's activities have also had something to do with that feeling in U.S. public opinion? What I have in mind is, for example, the Shilo affair.

[Answer] Yes. This is, of course, a closed circle, and the image people are trying to create--even if it is an incorrect or misleading image--is ultimately, of course, based on what we do or say. I'd say that there are three things which are putting a burden on our publicity campaign.

The first [word indistinct] in the Rafah approaches, the fact that in the context of the peace plan we proposed that we would return the sovereignty to Egypt in the area of the Rafah approaches, while at the same time we propose to continue operating the air force base there, to keep our settlements there and to protect our settlements.

The second point seems to be connected to that agreement which was apparently reached by the foreign minister and President Carter a few months ago; namely, that we should establish settlements in the framework of military camps in Judaea and Samaria. This is apparently something that has been agreed upon with the U.S. President's approval. Even though the President agreed and accepted this, a part of the public seems to have doubts whether he had indeed agreed. Recently he has not reiterated his agreement and has not reconfirmed it. He may still do so. Another part of the public, however, is saying; even if the President agreed, what do the Israelis intend? Do they intend to establish real settlements? Why then do they wish to do it in the form of military camps?

The third point is, of course, Shilo. The impression is being created that we declare, on the one hand, that all that is or will be done are archeological digs and, under this disguise we are trying to establish settlements. It would be much easier and simpler to explain why--if this is our resolution--we insist on our right and the necessity to settle in Shilo, than to explain exactly where the misunderstanding lies here between the diggers and the settlers.

[Question] I understand from what you say that you are not in full agreement with the way the government acted, at least where the Shilo settlement is concerned.

[Answer] Look, I wouldn't say that, because it is clear to me that it is not always possible, at the moment of adopting a resolution--it is even impossible--to consider all the publicity problems it will be confronted with. This is true regarding Shilo, and it certainly is also true regarding that agreement about settlement establishments within military camps; it may be also true regarding that part in our peace proposal in which he proposed to allow a return of Egyptian sovereignty over the entire Sinai Peninsula instead of, let's say, over 98 percent of it. But, I'd say, the lesson to be drawn from all this is that once we reach a decision regarding the adoption of an attitude, then the consideration as to how it would be possible to explain this to public opinion the world over and in the United States in particular, has to be among the main considerations.

[Question] In retrospect, if you were today a partner to a resolution pertaining to Shilo, how would you formulate it, in view of the considerations you have presented?

[Anwer] I think that where Shilo is concerned, the considerations are actually quite simple. If the decision is that we want to settle at Shilo, due to security considerations or due to considerations connected with giving prominence to our position that a Jew is entitled to live and to settle in Judaea and Samaria, and that the Government of Israel will not lend its hand to that Jordanian policy for 19 years, which said that a Jew was forbidden to live there--then one has to settle and proclaim that we are about to establish a settlement at Shilo and put up a kibbutz or a moshav or whatever it may be there.

If, on the other hand, the decision is that this is not the time or, perhaps also not the place, and what interests us at Shilo are archeological digs, then one has to deal in archeological excavations, and then I'd suggest charging professional archeologists with the task, without involving a group of people whose main task and aspiration is settlement rather than excavations.

[Question] Professor Arens, since your return from the United States you probably have conclusions, recommendations and propositions on how to act in the field of publicity, a field that is so much a concern of yours.

[Answer] On this subject we have, in my view, to do nothing more than explain clearly our positions and the reasons for our positions. There is in the United States a very large percentage of the population--and not only Jews--who are not only our friends and sympathizers, but who also understand that the interests of the United States and of Israel in this region are actually identical. They understand that the problem now confronting Israelis a problem well known in the United States; that is to say, the problem of conducting negotiations with a totalitarian ruler, when one is trying to find the middle path between the desire to bring the negotiations to a successful culmination and the reluctance to shoulder unreasonable risks. I, for example, found that there was no understanding in the United States regarding the considerable scope of the concessions we had proposed in the context of our peace proposal. It may have been in the wake of the quite successful appearances of President as-Sadat in the United States. We perhaps did not sufficiently explain how far we had gone. The fact remains, however, that I realize in many places when relating how we had conceded almost the entire Sinai, 98 or 99 percent of it, that people were surprised to hear that. Despite the fact that this had been clearly stated, it failed apparently to have been absorbed. [end recording]

ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING BEGIN'S U.S. TRIP REPORTED

Cabinet Meets, Begin Comments

TA051318Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said at the end of the cabinet session that conclusions had been adopted after the political discussion, but the first to learn of these conclusions will be President Carter.

Answering a question from our political correspondent Shalom Qital, Mr Begin said that the cabinet had not introduced modifications in the Israeli peace plan.

The prime minister said he had prepared a draft reply to the Egyptian president's letter and that at the session he had consulted on it with the cabinet members. The reply will be sent to As-Sadat through the Americans today or tomorrow. Mr Begin said the exchange of letters with President as-Sadat was in a cordial spirit. The problem now is the renewal of the direct negotiations.

The prime minister regards the differing approaches of Jerusalem and of Washington regarding Security Council Resolution 242 to be a problem of interpretation.

Mr Begin was asked to react to the foreign minister's statement regarding the possibility that Israel partially implement the plan for self-administration for Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. He replied that this was Moshe Dayan's private opinion.

The prime minister will depart for the United States next Sunday. He will be accompanied by the foreign minister.

Baraq Expected To Accompany Begin

NC051330Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The legal adviser of the government, Pro Aharon Baraq, will probably leave for the United States this week.

Our correspondent has learned that it is almost certain that Professor Baraq will participate in the contacts which the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister will hold in Washington.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN DEPARTS FOR UNITED STATES

NC051050Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prior to his departure for the United States this morning Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that he is going in order to meet, first and foremost, his counterpart, Harold Brown. He noted that he will discuss with the U.S. defense secretary plans which are already known to the public concerning arms supplies to the IDF. We will discuss what we requested and what we will get, and if need be we will argue, he said.

The defense minister said that, in September 1975, when Israel and the United States signed an agreement, the Americans pledged to supply us with certain equipment. The United States has, to date, respected its pledges and it should respect them in the future as well, he said.

Minister Weizman noted that he will also participate in political meetings, including meetings with President Carter and Secretary of State Vance. At these meetings he intends to raise the subject of Israeli settlements beyond the green line. He also intends to discuss the package deal by which Washington wants to supply to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel. To questions on the subject by correspondents the defense minister replied that Saudi Arabia will become a confrontation state because the Tabuq base is close to us and Saudi Arabia will be armed with sophisticated weapons. As long as we have no agreements with Saudi Arabia, it is a confrontation state for us, Minister Weizman said.

The defense minister's visit in the United States will last for 10 days. Next week Minister Weizman will join the prime minister and the foreign minister in the talks to be held in Washington.

Comments on Negotiations

NC051308Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Mar 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Weizman left about an hour ago for a 10-day visit to the United States. He was seen off by the chief of staff, senior officiers and the U.S. ambassador in Israel. The U.S. envoy took the opportunity to hold a 1-hour meeting with the defense minister and chief of staff. Our military correspondent, Roni Dani'el reports: [begin recording]

[Weizman] I presume that I will have some political meetings in which I will try to present the views of the Israeli Government, particularly on the subject of the negotiations with Egypt, hoping that the negotiations will continue after the prime minister returns from his visit in the United States next week. Most of my talks on the subject of weapons, including the subject of the package deal--which is not to the liking of the Israeli Government--will revolve around these topics.

[Dani'el] Will you, on your own initiative, raise in the United States the subject of settlements in the Rafah approaches?

[Weizman] I will raise, on my own initiative, the whole plan of the Israeli Government, as we see it--a plan that might bring about an agreement which will include, naturally, the position of the settlements that will remain in the Sinai within the context of the peace agreement.

[Dani'el] Concerning Lebanon and recent developments there, the defense minister said: Lebanon is in good hands. I have summed up with the chief of staff what should be done and what should be avoided.

The defense minister was asked when the military talks are expected to be resumed.

[Weizman] I cannot reply at the moment. In my opinion and according to the Israeli Government's decision [the resumption of the Military Committee talks] is linked to political developments of the Political Committee. I have my own opinion, which is that in the next 2 weeks we will have the resumption of the talks. This is my own opinion. I hope I am right because I think the talks are important and if it is possible to achieve gains, it is better to achieve gains in both committees. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: U.S. HAS BROKEN NO PROMISES IN ARAB ARMS DEAL

TA051601Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Mar 78 p 13 TA

[Uri Dan commentary: "The Cabinet Is Clinging to Promises the United States Did Not Give"]

[Text] One of the claims which has been made by Israeli cabinets, both previous and current, is that the United States is not keeping its commitments to Israel in the framework of the second disengagement agreement in Sinai.

In recent days it has been saidmore than once that the decreased number of F-16's which the United States is prepared to supply to Israel is in complete contradiction to the agreement between the two countries in the wake of the Israeli commitment to withdraw from the oil fields and the passes in Sinai in September 1975.

It appears that the United States has not violated any agreement, because it did not commit itself to anything in clear terms. In 1975 the United States made a commitment to give Israel military and other aid in the amount of $2.2 billion. It should be pointed out that the United States has honored this commitment down to the last comma. With respect to the coming years, however, the United States made no commitment--in the framework of that same agreement and in a specific form--neither as regards types of quantities of aircraft to be supplied to Israel nor as regards the amount of financial aid.

A very general clause in that same agreement laid down that the United States guaranteed to look after Israel's long-term military strength and its economic needs. However, there was not--nor could there have been--any clause which defined this in view of the process of approval of budgets and arms deals in the United States.

So what was there? In order to convince the nation that Israel would receive compensation for abandoning oil fields and strategic strongholds in Sinai, the previous cabinet--headed by Mr Yizhaq Rabin--saw fit to construct complex batteries of U.S. promises which never existed. They then detailed the billions of dollars we were to receive and went into the quantites and types of aircraft which the United States had, as it were, promised to Israel, without this having any basis in reality.

A habit becomes a fact of nature: Every time an Arab country receives weapons, a shout is heard from Jeruslaem. When the weapons come from the United States the shout becomes a scream. This is how it has been for 30 years.

Right after the announcement of the White House decision to supply aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the cabinet rushed to get into their aircraft, and moved heaven and earth, in order to shoot down the terrible thing. We should first of all know the facts, because we are not living in a ghetto, but in a sovereign state, and we are not under the patronage of a squire.

Thus, not only this cabinet, but even previous cabinets, have known that the United States intended to supply about 50 F-15's to Saudi Arabia. The Rabin cabinet was aware of this, that the United States intended to sell fighters to the Egyptian Army as well--following the Hercules aircraft deal--with the intention of taking the Soviet Union's place in Egypt.

When Israel submitted its request for 150 F-16's from the United States, it already took into account the reinforcement of the Saudi Air Force. The Israeli claim, made to strengthen its request to be supplied with 150 F-16's and as it was then put to the Americans, included exactly this evaluation of the strength of enemy forces at the beginning of the 1980's.

Therefore, the scream coming from Jerusalem has no decisive effect on the White House and the U.S. defense establishment.

As citizens of a country which has been in existence for 30 years, we must ask ourselves:

Were we surprised by these deals? The answer is no. They had been taken into account.

Could the deals have been prevented? The answer is, no. It is clear that the United States will not allow us to conduct its policy. It began long ago to supply Saudi Arabia with aircraft in the framework of a comprehensive political-economic deal in which Saudi Arabia helped the United States to keep oil prices stable. The same applies to the process of substituting for the Soviet Union in Egypt--as an arms supplier as well--which is a basic line in U.S. policy.

What can be done to see to it that the United States sees to a balance in the supplies of weapons to the Arab countries through suitable aid to Israel? This can be achieved.

In view of the experience of "the best of a bad situation," it would be better for the United States to supply the weapons to the Arab countries rather than the Soviet Union--if we already have to live in the shadow of a constant threat of war. The United States has proved that it has at least the desire to control and prevent the use of these weapons--as far as possible--in contrast to the policy of the Soviet Union.

Therefore, it would be better for the cabinet to abandon the "interceptor aircraft" in which it went out to fight the U.S.-Arab deals, even if it has to use the "ejection seat." It would be better to climb down from the high tower--before we are brought down forcibly.

It may be assumed that Menahem Begin, 'Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan, who will go to Washington in a normal El Al plane--will arrive there in a different mood from that which presaged the storm around the supply of U.S. aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman--the first of the visitors to Washington in this round--will certainly be the first to bring a more balanced Israeli position there.

IDF PREVENTS QADESH BARNE'A SETTLERS FROM ENTERING FIELDS

TA041946Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 4 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Military authorities in Al 'Arish last night prevented an attempt by the Qadesh Barne'a settlers to enter the agricultural area they have cultivated in recent months. Our correspondent for settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren, has learned that the settlers asked to enter the area under cultivation, and not the new settlement site, entry into which was forbidden on the instructions of the defense minister. The military authorities refused to allow them to enter the area.

WEIZMAN FAVORS STRENGTHENING W. BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA051328Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has recently, on several occasions, expressed his opposition to the establishment of tiny settlements in the West Bank, the establishment of which, in his view, is entirely for show. Instead, he supports the broadening of existing settlements to strengthen and get them on a firm footing.

WEIZMAN ORDERS FREEZE ON WORK AT NEW W. BANK SETTLEMENT

TA051743Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Mar 78 TA

[Text] On the eve of his departure for the United States Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has imposed a freeze on land preparations for the settlement at Nabi Salah in Samaria. A permanent Gush Emunim settlement was scheduled to be established on that site, in accordance with a cabinet resolution.

The Defense Ministry informed the settlers at Bet El, north of Ramallah, that it is not giving its approval to establish a permanent settlement at that site, earmarked by the settlement division of the Zionist organization, because a firing range is to be established there.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer remarks that Gush Emunim has adopted a resolution to begin a public struggle against the government's settlement policy.

Official Explains Order

TA052037Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Defense Ministry spokesman announced that Gush Emunim settlers at Bet El, north of Ramallah, planned to erect buildings in an area close to the military camp without the Defense Ministry's approval. After the matter had been clarified with the settlers, another area was offered to them.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that this was the reaction of the Defense Ministry spokesman to a report broadcast by us this evening that the ministry had ordered a halt to all preparations to build a permanent settlement at Bet El.

As for the report that the defense minister had ordered land development activity for the settlement at Nabi Salah to be halted, the ministry spokesman said that such instructions had not been issued, and that measurements and road construction are under way at the site. Our correspondent says that the defense minister's instructions apply to the suspension of work by the bulldozers.

IDF Services Discontinued

TA061115Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The deputy commander of the Bet El military base near Ramallah has informed the settlers on the base that they will not receive aid and food from the IDF and they will no longer be permitted to eat in the base dining room. They have been given 2 days to arrange for other sources of food. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that there are no facilities to allow the 30 families in Bet El to cook for themselves.

The defense minister has also instructed that the entry of journalists to the settlement be forbidden.

Our correspondent toured the settlement of Neve Zuf near An-Nabi Salih and reports that all ground work there has been stopped. The settlers told our correspondent that this was done on the instructions of the defense minister.

ELON MORE GROUP TO ESTABLISH NEW W. BANK SETTLEMENT

TA060526Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Twenty-four families living in Elon More have decided to establish a settlement of their own on a hill overlooking Nabulus close to what is thought to be Joseph's grave. The nucleus secretary, Moshe Simon, told our correspondent that he and his friends will soon break ground there even without government approval and despite the Gush Emunim secretariat's negative view of this.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer also reports, on the settlement issue, that the defense minister has ordered that groundbreaking working in Judaea and Samaria be stopped until after the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister visit to the United States. Only surveying of land approved for settlement is to continue.

NEW HOUSING UNITS SET UP AT SHILO CAMP

TA051416Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] From a visit I made to Shilo at the end of the week it emerged that a new fact has been created on the area of the excavator's camp: Five new dwellings were brought there toward the end of last week and set up in the camp area without any decision or authorization being given by anyone. According to the settlers there, the new buildings are intended for the use of the Yeshiva students at Shilo.

Before the new huts were brought to the site the excavators' camp contained eight trailers and five prefabs which had been brought to Shilo from 'Ofra the day they moved in.

My attempt to find out who brought the buildings to Shilo met with no success. It is known that the Jewish Agency Settlement Division no longer deals with Shilo, after the settlement was classified as an archeological camp, and it is the settlement division which normally supplies equipment to new settlements. It appears that the new buildings in Shilo were not purchased with funds from the settlement division.

The Ministry of Defense knew nothing about this addition of buildings to the Shilo camp. The minister of defense is not only opposed to any additional buildings, he is also known to be opposed to the presence of the Shilo people there, since they are not involved in excavations, as the cabinet decision stipulated they should be. However, it is clear that the new buildings were purchased only over the last few days and put up at Shilo only at the beginning of last week. There is a theory about this--which has not been confirmed--that the buildings were purchased directly from the manufacturer with funds from Gush Emunim. It is worth pointing out that the legal position as regards the Shilo settlement is not clear, and in this context there is a question: Who can authorize purchases by the settlers and what body is entitled to authorize additional purchases? The cabinet did not decide to create a settlement there and, because of this, it is not clear who authorized the additional buildings for the disputed site. But, as stated, for the last 10 days or so the excavators' camp at Shilo has increased and doubled the number of housing units there.

CHANGING IDEAS WITHIN LIKUD ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE NOTED

TA031337Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 78 p 14 TA

[Dan Margalit article: "The Likud in Half a Turn Away From Settlement"]

[Text] How does a sworn hawk begin to have reservations about his main claim to establish settlements? He declares loyalty to Gush Emunim but adds that the law, justice and the authority of the government come first. You cannot present the government with a fait accompli against its will. One must not attack the government in Israel or abroad.

This rule was also true in the past. However, when the Gush Emunim settlers ascended a pretty hill in Elon More, west of Nabulus, this well-known rule was not part of the lexicon of the sworn hawks. The Likud Knesset members, and those who prepared themselves to join the faction after the election in 1977 [Are'el Sharon's Shelomziyyon Party] applauded.

They did not rush to condemn the peculiar settlement at Shilo, but let the defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman, alone warn about the government's opposition to the independent action by Gush Emunim. They did not have the guts to declare that despite their support for the dear sons [of Gush Emunim] and their faith in the sanctity of settlement these acts should be stopped. They left the difficult job to Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

However, Mr Begin did not come out forcefully in speeches in this head-on struggle as should have been expected from a national leader of his stature who should be prepared to take the risk of adopting a policy unpopular in his party. Perhaps he would not have encountered much opposition.

The struggle was left, therefore, to the coalition rearguard. The DMC Knesset members in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee--Shemu'el Toledano, 'Aqiva Nof and Amnon Rubinstein--acted more than their ministers in the government. Yizhaq Berman and Yosef Tamir demanded a meeting of the liberals in the Likud to decide against further settlement while negotiations are underway.

Perhaps, deep down in his heart, the prime minister justified the activity against the continued settlement perpetrated by Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. However, nothing came of this because, apart from Construction and Housing Minister Gid'on Pat, it is doubtful that there was anyone prepared to get into an argument with Sharon. This week there was a turnabout in the Likud faction. That which had been deep in the hearts of many found open expression.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan acted well on this matter. He sent information campaigners to the United States. It is not known how successful these people were in their acts of persuasion on Capital Hill and in the offices of the State Department, but it is clear that they returned to Israel in a state of shock. It is not that the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MK Prof Moshe Arens, or MK Yosef Rom--both from Herut--changed their opinions. However, in accordance with the fixed formula of the hawks, who suddenly became aware of the hard political reality in the United States, they realized too late that one cannot allow every settler to make a law unto himself. It is necessary for settlements to be carried out in accordance with government decisions, and this also applies to Shilo.

Even though, in order to "save their souls" they can declare their support for turning Shilo into a permanent settlement they are wise enough to know that in the present state of relations between Israel and the United States such a move is inconceivable. When they say that the present situation is turning the government into a laughing stock and that one has to decide "either this or that" they know that they in fact have only one choice.

However, they might backtrack. While he was ambassador in Washington, MK Rabin told how Israelis visiting in the United States show understanding for the U.S. view for only 2 weeks after returning to Israel. Afterwards they fall "back into their old mold." It is possible, therefore, that the shock experienced by Arens and Rom is not "the last stop."

However, the facts speak for themselves. MK Pesah Grupper has also begun to be concerned about the government's authority while up to now he had been involved in efforts to increasing settlement. Deputy Finance Minister Yehezqel Flumin gave the liberals a chilling report about remarks on the Shilo affair that he heard from Israel's friends abroad. Most important was coalition chairman MK Hayyim Corfu's position.

MK Corfu did not hide behind the demand for a perfect administration and the imposition of the government's legal authority [on Gush Emunim]. He did not hide behind the archeological dig at Shilo. He adopted a position and in doing so knew that it would be made public. This position was aimed at granting the government the greatest freedom to maneuver that it could wish for vis-a-vis the Likud voters--if it were interested in such freedom.

The Likud, which since 1967, has wanted to impose Israeli law on Judaea and Samaria, established its government with the declaration that it would not do so and also maintained that the government was permitted to decide that for the duration of the negotiations with Egypt not only would it not decide on further settlements but that it would also abolish the decisions of its predecessors on this matter.

In the present situation one can wonder who in the Likud faction believes that settlements should be continued while negotiations are underway. Two who are serious about this are Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir. Some Herut Knesset members have not said anything recently. I assume that they believe that Begin supports continued settlement but it is possible that they might join those who oppose settlement were they to hear from the prime minister how much damage has been caused to Israel in the West over this matter.

This reasoning does not have any effect on the agriculture minister. Mr Begin--whether because he likes the former general or because he's a little afraid of him if one looks at their past confrontations--is doing nothing to restrain him. When the Likud Executive met this week to discuss Yosef Tamir's opposition to settlement, Begin gave Sharon the right to answer. The prime minister shrugged his shoulders, the agriculture minister announced that the electronic media was the cause of everything and there was no decision.

A respected Knesset member told this week of how he directed an activist Netherlander Jew to Sharon who informed Sharon of the damage caused to Israel in the Netherlands. We do not know exactly what Sharon told the Jewish activist, but we do know of the impression the activist gained: Sharon does not attach much importance to what the Gentiles say, in this case in The Hague.

I have gained the impression that Minister Sharon and MKs Kohen and Shamir have become a minority in their faction. In the Likud--and even in Herut--if Mr Begin will hint through his silence that he approves--the ground has been prepared to release the government from its commitment to settlement as long as the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations are continuing. The success of this matter depends on the willingness of people such as Weizman and Corfu to take on the direction of this "revolt."

TEHERAN REPORTS ATTACK ON IRANIAN EMBASSY IN GDR

LD0112216Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] GDR officials have expressed profound regret over an attack made against the Imperial Iranian Embassy building in East Berlin and stated they are investigating the incident.

According to information received from the Foreign Ministry, at about 1315 on Monday, 27 February, a group of 30 Persian-speaking hooligans and saboteurs attacked the Imperial Iranian mission in East Berlin, the capital of the GDR, held embassy staff prisoners in a room, smashed all the furniture and equipment inside the embassy, broke down doors, destroyed most of the books and papers in the building and occupied the embassy for about 70 minutes. These saboteurs also took over all communications facilities.

All through this period the GDR police, which had surrounded the embassy, did not intervene until the German driver of the embassy was freed and was able to get out to call for help. Following that the police entered the embassy building and arrested and took away the invaders.

Immediately afterward the shahanshah's ambassador went to the GDR Foreign Ministry and lodged a protest about the incident and the attack on the imperial embassy, as well as against the responsible authorities' failure to intervene in time. The next day, Tuesday, 28 February, the shahanshah's ambassador again went to the GDR Foreign Ministry, handed in a note of protest and demanded immediate prosecution of the saboteurs in accordance with GDR laws.

In Teheran, too, the GDR ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and the Imperial Iranian Government's views on the deplorable matter were conveyed to him. The GDR officials expressed their regret and shock over the situation and said they are investigating the matter.

Ambassador Withdrawn

LD0220402 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, because the GDR Government has expelled those people who attacked the Imperial Iranian Government's Embassy in East Berlin without carrying out the sentence imposed on them earlier and will, as a result, have no access to them to carry out their legal punishment, and thus has in a manner of speaking encouraged such attacks on the Iranian Embassy, and because the imperial government's officials in this country will no longer enjoy the necessary legal protection, the Iranian Government has decided to withdraw the imperial government's ambassador and the embassy's staff from East Berlin. From now on the embassy in East Berlin will operate with one employee acting as charge d'affaires.

JOURNAL Justifies Action

LD051822Y Teheran PARS in English 1102 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--In an editorial on Saturday March 4th, English language morning newspaper Teheran JOURNAL commented the following article by saying that.... [as received]

The recall of the Iranian ambassador and the embassy staff from East Berlin following disturbances in which a number of the so-called "students" occupied the embassy's chancery last week comes as no surprise.

The protection of a foreign embassy is the responsibility of the host government and if this protection is not forthcoming an embassy cannot function properly.

Obviously the East German Government has failed to discharge this responsibility emanating from accepted diplomatic norms. The behavior of the East Berlin Government becomes more alarming in view of the fact that although East German police officers posted at the chancery building for protecting it against demonstrators, assailants and other social malcontents were present, they did nothing to stop unauthorized persons from entering the embassy's premises.

When the students embarked upon a path of violence destroying the embassy's furniture, documents and other property, they left the realm of peaceful protestors and entered that of common criminals, oblivious of the rights of others, they needed to be dealt with as such.

Obviously the East German authorities have not been able to satisfy the Iranian Government of their own impartiality leading to the drastic action of the recall of the Iranian envoy.

On the contrary, the facts that the culprits were allowed to leave East Germany for unknown destinations, arouses suspicion that if East Berlin authorities were not involved in organizing the attacks on the embassy themselves, they were strongly sympathetic to the embassy's assailants. No decent government would willfully ignore its commitments under international diplomatic practices.

In fact, the East Berlin Government should, of its own accord, have arrested and tried the culprits under German law.

The East Berlin Government is known to have crushed opponents ruthlessly and it is unbelievable that the persons guilty of invading an embassy, the protection of which is the sole responsibility of that government should leave the country without its knowledge or support.

Therefore, the Iranian Government is right in assuming either the East Berlin Government is deliberately unfriendly to this country or so incompetent as to be unable to fulfill its accepted responsibility.

It might be noted that Iran is interested in maintaining good relations with all countries of the world, irrespective of their social system. This is the cornerstone of the national independent policy practices by Iran. A vital aspect of this policy is that no relations can flourish between any two self-respecting countries until they are based on mutual respect.

When Iran established diplomatic relations with East Berlin it was within the framework of its global policy to develop ties with other countries.

Many countries in the Eastern bloc had most cordial and friendly relations with Iran, which could even be described as exemplary. These relations stand on the foundation of mutual respect and non interference in each other's internal affairs. Until last week's incidents, relations with East Germany were growing. It is a pity that they should be affected so adversely through the actions, rather inaction, of the East German [word indistinct].

In any case the Iranian Government is justified in withdrawing its ambassador and other staff members from a country where their safety [words indistinct] guarantee or where there is no scope for their proper function.

East Germany could have benefitted economically from maintaining smooth relations with Iran because the latter offers almost unlimited opportunity for commercial and industrial cooperation.

GDR Goods Boycotted

LD060948Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Following the attack on the Iranian Embassy in East Berlin and the GDR Government's negligence in punishing the intruders, the Chamber of Commerce and Mines and Industry has boycotted the purchase of goods from GDR.

KHALATBARI DEPARTS FOR BAGHDAD, VIEWS PROSPECTS

LD261210Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari left for Baghdad this morning in order to take part in the second Iran-Iraq joint commission. In an interview at Mehrabad Airport before his departure, the foreign minister said: I am going to Iraq to participate in the Iran-Iraq joint commission, which is held twice a year in Teheran and Baghdad. I am taking with me the shah's warm greetings for his excellency the Iraqi president. He added that the commission's work is very extensive, that it will deal with all aspects of cooperation between the two governments and that it will make proposals and recommendations to the two governments. The foreign minister went on to say that the commission's activities will touch on issues from agriculture, fishing and even electric power to [words indistinct] exchange of political views.

Recalling the commission's earlier meetings and its role in expanding cooperation between the two countries, Mr Khalatbari pointed out that during his talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, a number of issues, including the conflict in the Horn of Africa--where the stances of both countries are clear--as well as the Middle East problem, will be discussed and that both sides will explain their views on various problems.

The foreign minister added: Of course, Iran has no definite proposal on this matter. However, if the Iraqi side makes new proposals we will willingly listen to them. The foreign minister also added: The negotiations concerning oil cooperation between Iran and Iraq in connection with OPEC as well as the value of the dollar and bilateral cooperation regarding [word indistinct] exploitation and sale of oil.

Commenting on signing a transit agreement between Iran and Iraq--which has already been concluded--the foreign minister said: A delegation has already gone to Baghdad, and I am joining the delegation to continue the negotiations and to finalize them.

Referring to the conference of the ministers of the Persian Gulf states, Khalatbari pointed out that no plan for this has been drawn up. He added that Iran will present a proposal and that it is always ready to cooperate with the Persian Gulf states and that there is no likelihood that the conference of Islamic countries might be postponed.

Returns From Baghdad

LD021518Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Khalatbari, who had gone to Baghdad at the head of a delegation to take part in the second session of the Iran-Iraq joint commission, returned to Teheran today.

U.S.-IRANIAN ECONOMIC TALKS BEGIN IN WASHINGTON

LD021430Y Teheran PARS in English 1120 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY) 1 March--The 4th Irano-U.S. Joint Economic Commission opened today at the U.S. State Department. At the opening session, the U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, referred to the friendly (?relations) between the two countries and praised the creative role that Iran had played under the wise and strong leadership of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr in securing strength and stability in regional and international relations. Mr Vance recalled that [words indistinct] ago, when the U.S. was sending economic aid to Iran, the country's Gross National Product had been 6 billion dollars, whereas today it stood at more than 80 billion dollars, that per capita income had increased to 2,200 dolars, and that the volume of trade between Iran and the United States in 1977 amounted to 5 billion dollars--a 15-fold increase over the past 15 years.

On the question of energy, the U.S. secretary of state observed that Iran had adopted a policy which clearly recognised the importance of conserving natural resources, and that her rapid growth had presented her with an opportunity to "fill the gap" between advanced and developing countries.

Mr Vance went on to state that the United States welcomed the opportunity to hear Iran's views on vital economic issues, including the north-south dialogue, and stated that the prospect for further economic cooperation between the two countries were most favourable and that the commission had an important role in this area. The Iranian minister of financial affairs and economics [title as received], Mohammad Yeganeh, said that economic cooperation between Iran and the United States was growing day-by-day and that under the leadership of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr the Iranian economy had made great strides forwards. The joint commission would give the two sides every opportunity, Mr Yeganeh said, to explore every aspect of bilateral economic cooperation.

Mr Yeganeh went on to talk about the importance of energy conservation and of the search for alternative energy sources to replace oil and recalled the important role played by Iran in the recent OPEC decision to freeze the price of oil.

BANGLADESH

ZIA RECEIVES PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATIONS 3 MAR

BK040233Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The eight-member Chinese friendship delegation led by Mr Wang Ping-nan, called on President Ziaur Rahman at Banga Bhavan this afternoon.

The delegation told the president that they have been impressed by the industrial progress made by Bangladesh, adding that this country would continue to achieve greater progress in the future in the dedicated efforts of its people. They also told the president that the determination of the people of this country to protect and consolidate their national independence and sovereignty deserve the administration and support of all nations. They were confident that friendly relations already existing between China and Bangladesh will become stronger in the years to come.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said the relations between Bangladesh and China are deep rooted. He recalled his visit to China and said that he was greatly impressed by the progress made by that country in various sectors.

The president said: We are looking forward to the coming visit of the Chinese vice premier and the Chinese foreign minister to Bangladesh. Such visits will further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation also had a meeting with the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq. Prof Haq said Bangladesh greatly appreciates the example of self-reliance that China has set in her economic development. He said Bangladesh is also trying to move toward self-sufficiency [words indistinct]. He said Bangladesh noted with admiration the emergence of modern China under the great leadership of Chairman Mao and continued progress under the wise leadership of Chairman Hua.

The leader of the delegation expressed satisfaction at the fine performance that they observed in Bangladesh both in public and private sectors.

Earlier talking to newsmen at Chittagong this morning, the leader of the Chinese friendship delegation said that the current visit has enabled them to know a lot more about the people of Bangladesh. The delegation later visited the Chittagong Port.

INDIA

FORMAL INDIAN-AFGAN TALKS OPEN IN DELHI 4 MAR

BK040917Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Formal talks between India and Afghanistan were held in New Delhi this morning. The Afgan president, Mr Mohammad Daud, and Mr Morarji Desai first met privately for about 45 minutes. Later they were joined by their delegations. The Indian side included Mr Charan Singh, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr George Fernandes, Mr Mohan Dharia and Mr Sikandar Bakht, besides senior officials.

President Daud was assisted by his minister for justice, Professor Sam'i; the minister for commerce, Mr Mohammad Khan Jalallar; the minister in charge of foreign affairs, Mr Wahid Abdollah; and other top aides.

Earlier this morning, the vice president, Mr Jatti, called on President Daud. Mr Morarji Desai hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting president.

Daud Press Conference

BK041602Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Addressing a news conference, the Afgan president said that the idea of expanding cooperation between all countries of Asia is a good thing and will promote understanding and peace in the area. The concept, however, is so far only in the air without any substance. He was answering a question about the Asian common market.

President Daud said his country's polciy on the Pakhtoonistan issue is to support the lawful rights of the Pakhtoon and Baluchi peoples. He said that as a result of his talks with the former Pakistan prime minister, Mr Bhutto, and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Ziaul Haq, the atmosphere between the two countries has improved. He hoped that they will be able to maintain it and that his coming talks in Islamabad would lead to better results. On the question of transit trade through Pakistan, he said he would raise the matter in Islamabad.

During the day the Afgan president visited Rajghat and laid a floral wreath on the samadhi [monument] of Mahatma Gandhi. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr L.K. Advani, presented to him 70 volumes of the collective works of Mahatma Gandhi. President Daud said leaders like Mahatma Gandhi are remembered and respected throughout the world. Later the Afgan president visited the defense exhibition at Pavati Maidan.

Daud, Reddy Banquet Speeches

BK041040Y Delhi ISI in English 0848 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President N. Sanjeeva Reddy made the following speech in New Delhi on March 3 at a banquet given in honor of His Excellency President Daud of Afghanistan:

It is a matter of great pleasure and indeed a privilege for me to have this opportunity of welcoming you in our midst. You are not only one of the most respected and far sighted statesmen of Asia and the acclaimed leader of your people, but also an old and trusted friend of India.

Your Excellency is not a stranger to India. Our people have had the privilege of welcoming you in 1975. Indeed, we are greatly honored by your present visit to India which gives us an opportunity of exchanging views on matters of mutual interest and on deepening further our existing bonds in an atmosphere of friendship and trust which have throughout characterized the relations between our countries and peoples.

Afghanistan has stood at the crossroads of rich and varied cultures and civilizations. Armies and caravans, travellers and sages have moved through your beautiful land which has assimilated these diverse influences and evolved a distinct personality and character of its own as a proud nation, generous and hospitable, which through fierce struggles and sacrifices has maintained its tradition of independence. Your Excellency truly epitomizes that indomitable Afgan spirit of independence.

Indian philosophy, science, art and culture have also passed through Afghanistan to different parts of Asia and the world. Generations ago many Afgans made India their home. They too have enriched our culture. We are also indebted to Afghanistan for giving shelter to many Indian freedom fighters, including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, during the days of our own struggle for independence.

Our two peoples have therefore good reason to be proud of the shared heritage of a civilisation whose values and ideals are reflected in their endeavours in the fields of art, architecture and literature. Our two peoples also came together in their common struggle to resist colonial domination.

Thus the ties of brotherly relations between India and Afghanistan are nothing new. The relations have been consistently warm [and] further reinforced by the determined efforts of our two governments. There has existed a close identity of approach between us on various international developments. Our relations have grown even warmer with the advent of the republican regime under Your Excellency's wise stewardship.

Mr President, we have watched with deep admiration the efforts being made by our country in the numerous fields of developmental activity aimed at raising the standards of the people and enabling them to share the scientific and technological advancement taking place in the world. It is a measure of your wisdom, courage and vision that you have made progress, peace and harmony as the foundations of your policy at home and abroad.

India, too, has experienced momentous developments since Your Excellency visited our country last. As you are aware, we had a peaceful and orderly change of government in March 1977. What had happened has conclusively shown that the democratic sentiment has taken deep roots and the people of India cherish liberty above everything else. We, too, are bending all our energies to the task of accelerating the pace of progress in the country to give material content to our political liberty. Along with this we are also striving to rekindle our rich cultural heritage in order that the process of modernisation is given depth and direction. I would like to emphasise that the change in government has not affected our foreign policy which has been based on a broad national consensus. We stand for friendship with all nations on a footing of equality and constructive reciprocity. We would like to give special attention to strengthening friendship and promoting economic and technical cooperation with the nonaligned and other developing countries. Afghanistan and India are members of the nonaligned movement. Both subscribe to the concept of peaceful coexistence. It is a mark of our commitment to this movement that the last meeting of the foreign ministers of the coordinating bureau of the nonaligned countries was held in New Delhi and the next meeting is scheduled to be held shortly in Kabul.

We firmly believe that we must give first priority to promoting and strengthening our relations with our immediate neighbours through a process of constant dialogue. We have been making sincere and continued efforts to create an atmosphere of good will and to expand the gambit of positive cooperation wherever possible. Lasting peace in the region can rest only on a foundation of mutual trust. Beneficial bilateral endeavours resulting in subregional and regional cooperation are the only way of ensuring peace and stability in the region.

With so much in common it appears to us only natural that there should be a common destiny for the peoples of our regions. The long history of the interaction of the cultural forces, ideas and thoughts provides a receptive atmosphere in which economic complementarity and cooperation are not only possible but indispensable. We are convinced that the constructive and mutually beneficial economic cooperation which marks the relations between our two countries will contribute in no small measure to this objective of regional cooperation.

Fortunately, there are no problems outstanding between our two countries. We have always had a close identity of approach and have stood by each other in our moments of crisis. We are happy that in the recent years the bonds of cultural and economic relations have been continuously strengthened.

Trade between the two countries has been growing from year to year. There are a number of plans and programmes of economic cooperation which are moving forward. In this context, the meeting of Indo-Afgan Joint Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation in New Delhi in December 1977 proved extremely fruitful and has opened up new avenues of cooperation. I would like to take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency that India will always be with you in your struggle to develop your country at a fast pace. My government is deeply committed to the cause of Indo-Afgan friendship and shall persevere in developing our relations from strength to strength. Your Excellency's visit, we are convinced, will further cement the abiding bonds which link Afghanistan and India.

Mr President, we hope that you and the members of your delegation will have a pleasant and interesting stay in our country.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests:

I would now request you to raise your glasses and drink to the health and well-being of His Excellency President Mohammad Daud; to the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Afghanistan; and to the abiding ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Afghanistan.

SAMCHAR adds: Afghanistan's President Mohammad Daud expressed his appreciation for "the productive and selfless cooperation and assistance" which India has offered Afghanistan in different fields. He said the "friendly and useful collaboration between the two countries is ever increasing in accordance with the interests and wishes of our two nations." President Daud, who was replying to the toast proposed by President Sanjeeva Reddy at the banquet, spoke of the "numerous similarities in our common outlook vis-a-vis the international issues."

President Daud said this common outlook "emanates basically from the pursuit by the two countries of an independent national policy resting on the principles of active nonalignment and independent judgement of the world problems."

Among the issues on which the two had similar outlook he listed disarmament, an end to colonialism, exploitation and racial discrimination, the establishment of a new economic order and the conflicts in west Asia and the Horn of Africa.

The delegations of the two countries "maintain close collaboration at international conferences and the United Nations and help each other" in view of the similarities of outlook, he added.

President Daud said that his personal contact and talks with the Indian leaders would "prove more successful than ever in the further development of ties of friendship and of mutually beneficial and effective cooperation."

The invitation for him to visit India has helped him in "getting better acquainted with the new leaders" and "renew the pledge of enduring friendship between the two countries."

President Daud recalled the earlier visits of Afgan and Indian leaders to each other's country. "Close contacts and friendly relations between them, while manifesting on the one hand the very tangible friendship of the two countries, indicate on the other hand the continuity of a historic custom which has never been interrupted," he said.

Daud, Desai Address Paliament

BK041132Y Delhi ISI in English 0921 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Speaking at the function organised by the Indian parliamentary group in honour of President Mohammad Daud of Afghanistan, the prime minister, Morarji Desai, recalled the age-old friendship between the two countries, the similarity of goals and the framework of cooperation that they have built up.

Following is the text of the prime minister's speech:

We are assembled here to welcome into this central hall of our Parliament a very distinguished neighbour, friend, statesman and acknowledged leader of the friendly and brave people of Afghanistan who have always risen above the vicissitudes of history.

Afghanistan and India have been friends for centuries. There have been occasions in our long history when both our peoples have been influenced by the lives of the same great men. I am thinking of emperors like Kanishka Babar and Ahmed Shah Durrani. All through history we have had in common religious and ethical systems and mutual respect for similar values and philosphy. The art of Hadda and Bamyan and the work of the Sufi poets have exercised the same charm on our peoples. His Excellency Mohammad Daud is no stranger to us. Both as the prime minister of Afganistan and the president of the Republic of Afghanistan he has been a friend indeed and a greater supporter of Indo-Afgan friendship.

The people of Afghanistan have throughout displayed exemplary courage and prized their freedom. They have made sacrifice to preserve this independence. President Daud today is the symbol of this spirit of independence and courage. He has been an inspiring guide of the movement for greater Asian unity. He has always risen above narrow considerations and displayed a wide liberal outlook. He has been a neighbour par excellence and we welcome him today not only as a good friend but also as an enlightened statesman.

Today, both our countries are modernising and seeking to harness with the help of science and technology and industry the natural resources of our two lands in the service of our two peoples. In doing so we are also endeavouring to maintain our traditional ways of life and our traditional values. We have both embarked on an extensive programme of land reform, rural development, expansion of agricultural production and expansion of our industrial production. In all these fields we are also collaborating with one another and pooling our experiences. The road, I know, and I am sure President Daud recognises, is a long one. The goals of our two countries are similar, the problems we face are identical and, therefore, nobody should be surprised that we have built up together for our two countries a framework of cooperation and mutual help.

We believe that in today's world the best way to ensure the security of our countries is through building up an ever expanding sphere of prosperity--prosperity not for a few but for all. We believe in the better distribution of wealth, both internationally and internally. We believe in the future of nonalignment. We believe in the common values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Our two peoples and our two countries have faith in ourselves, in our friendship and in our destiny. Historically and culturally, we have shared much and achieved must together. In terms of economic development we have to build for the future, and that can be done best by doing so together. Our shared values on the common pursuit of peace and ever expanding cooperation, I have no doubt, will help our region, the whole of Asia and through it all the world.

I take this opportunity to assure his excellency that my government, members of this Parliament and indeed our entire country will continue to work together with our Afgan brethren with faith in our future. We welcome you today as a true friend, a kindly and understanding neighbour to a country which has always extended and will continue to extend a brotherly hand of cooperation and good will. With these words I convey to Your Excellency best wishes for a happy and prosperous Afghanistan.

SAMACHAR adds: The president of Afghanistan emphasised the need for strengthening the nonaligned movement which had already gained considerable momentum.

Addressing members of parliament in the central hall, President Daud said that Afghanistan was of the opinion that nonalignment was "playing a worldwide productive role in promoting better understanding and bringing about solidarity and cohesion among various nations."

President Daud referred to Afghanistan's policy to keep out of military blocs and said that he totally rejected the use of force for the settlement of international disputes.

He laid great stress on the need to achieve not only nuclear disarmament but also conventional weapons. He hoped that the next meeting of the bureau of nonaligned countries due to take place in Kabul in May would consider effective proposals for complete disarmament. The issue would be later discussed at the ministerial level meeting. Later on this would be placed before the special session of the United Nations. Daud said that the proliferation of nuclear weapons posed a grave danger and threatened humanity with complete annihilation. On the other hand, the peaceful use of nuclear energy could cater to the needs of humanity in its quest for a new advanced secure way of life. "When we speak of the threat of nuclear weapons and the destruction of our civilisation we must also bear in mind the conventional arms race." He said that the Goverrment of Afghanistan considered that this arms race, too, threatened the present day society.

Daud suggested that expenditure being incurred in the arms race should be diverted to deliver humanity from the clutches of poverty, illiteracy and social injustice. "Our common objective," he said, "is a world free from confrontation and hate," working in cooperation, equality and brotherhood. The Afgan president also said that they should not lose sight of the danger to peace posed by the present unfair world economic order which is helping to widen the gap between the advanced and wealthy nations and the developing, poorer countries.

President Daud said that the current unjust world economic order could be replaced with a new system through the good will and realism of the industrial world. "The solution to this problem lies not through opposition and confrontation but rather in the spirit of the cooperation and solidarity between the industrialised and nonindustrialised world. It is along these lines and with such a disposition that both parties should seek a solution."

Addressing the countries of the Third World, of which India and Afghanistan are a part, the visiting president said: "I believe our unity and cohesion, our analysis of common approach to this particuilar problem which has emerged, dictates that on the basis of the existing and very apparent realities we should observe our duty and with open ear and common outlook assume our responsibilities so that we may succeed in establishing a new economic order."

Referring to the situation in the region, President Daud expressed his country's support to the efforts being made in the region towards normalisation of the situation and peaceful settlement of differences. He hoped that this would pave the way for permanent peace in the region.

Referring to the relations between Afghanistan and India he said: "Currently our friendship rests upon ever stronger and more durable pillars. Our cooperation in the economic, commercial and cultural fields is increasingly being developed and strengthened." He said that the leaders of the two countries had been paying friendly visits to each other's country. Right now both sides were engaged in widening and developing as far as possible the scope of "our friendly all-round cooperation."

The speaker of the Lok Sabha, K.S. Hegde, said that the sentiments on Indo-Afgan friendship expressed by him "must find a ready echo in many a heart in this land as I am sure they will in your own." He said that India and Afghanistan were working in close cooperation in international forums and on all major issues stood together on the side of the forces of progress, peace and stability in the world. Hegde hoped that the president's visit would greatly help consolidate the friendship between the peoples and enlarge the areas of cooperation between the countries.

Daud Concludes Visit

BK050906Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Daud of Afghanistan has ended his 3-day official visit to India. He was given a ceremonial sendoff when he left New Delhi this morning for Islamabad. Among those present at the airport to see off President Daud were the president, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy; the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues and a number of other dignitaries. The Afgan president inspected an interservices guard of honor and a 21-gun salute was presented in his honor.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy said President Daud's visit has opened further opportunities for mutual cooperation. He expressed the hope that the joint efforts of the two countries will make the region free from tension. Mr Reddy said it is the policy of India to foster friendly relations with all its neighbors through a constant dialog on matters of mutual interest.

In his reply the Afgan president expressed happiness that the aim of his visit has been achieved. Speaking of the useful exchanges of views with Indian leaders, President Daud said he will always cherish the cordiality and warm hospitality extended to him. He expressed satisfaction over the significant progress made by India in all fields.

President Daud has since arrived in Islamabad.

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